

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency – February 15, 2022

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, February 15, 2022. 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: Accounting Tech II Kyle Arnold, Administrative Technician Terri Bell, Assistant General Manager Steve Cole, Associate Engineer Elizabeth Sobczak, Board Secretary April Jacobs, Chief Engineer Courtney Mael, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer Eric Campbell, Chief Operating Officer Keith Abercrombie, Communications Manager Kathie Martin, Controller Amy Aguer, Director of Finance and Administration Rochelle Patterson, Director of Operations and Maintenance Mike Alvord, Director of Technology Services Cris Perez, Emergency Preparedness and Safety Coordinator Jose Diaz, Environmental Health and Safety Supervisor Mark Passamani, Executive Assistants Eunie Kang and Leticia Quintero, Financial Analyst Darine Conner, General Counsel Tom Bunn and Joe Byrne, General Manager Matthew Stone, GIS Manager Jose Huerta, Principal Engineer Brent Payne, Right of Way Agent Kristina Jacob, Safety Specialist I Aaron Southard, Senior Engineer Jim Leserman, Senior Management Analyst Kim Grass, Sustainability Manager Matt Dickens, Water Systems Supervisor Gil Hermosillo and members of the public.

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

President Martin announced that there was no need to go into Closed Session tonight therefor items 13 and 14 would not be covered. There were no other changes to the February 15, 2022 Board Agenda and it was accepted as shown (Item 4).

Upon motion of Director Cooper, seconded by Director Atkins and carried, the Board approved the Consent Calendar including Resolution Nos. SCV-253 and SCV-254 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	Yes
Director Orzechowski	Yes	Director Plambeck	Yes

RESOLUTION NO. SCV-253

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY
ADOPTING A REVISED INVESTMENT POLICY**

<https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/SCV-Water-Approved-Resolution-021522-Resolution-SCV-253.pdf>

RESOLUTION NO. SCV-254

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY
AWARDING A CONTRACT TO TONY PAINTING FOR THE COMMERCE CENTER TANKS
NO. 1 AND NO. 2 EXTERIOR RECOAT PROJECT
IN THE AMOUNT OF \$118,650**

<https://yourscvwater.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/SCV-Water-Approved-Resolution-021522-Resolution-SCV-254.pdf>

Upon motion of Director Ford, seconded by Director Braunstein and carried, the Board authorized the General Manager to enter into an agreement with TerraVerde Energy for application preparation and project management of Self Generating Incentive Program projects (Photovoltaic and Battery Storage) funding 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

Upon motion of Vice President Gladbach, seconded by Director Armitage and carried, the Board approved the 2022 Legislative Platform by the following roll call votes (Item 6.2):

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Atkins	Abstain
Director Braunstein	Yes	Director Colley	No
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 Mortensen, seconded by Director Kelly and carried, the Board authorized the General Manager to enter into a one-year professional services agreement with the option of two one-year extensions for Oracle managed services with Emtec Consulting Services, LLC in the total amount of \$599,652 by the following roll call votes (Item 6.3):

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

Upon motion of Director Braunstein, seconded by Director Plambeck and carried, the Board approved technology upgrades to support remote public participation as a public convenience and that until COVID distancing restrictions are lifted that all Board and Committee meetings be held at the Rio Vista Water Treatment Plant Boardroom by the following roll call votes (Item 6.4):

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

The Environmental Health and Safety Supervisor Mark Passamani, Emergency Preparedness and Safety Coordinator Jose Diaz and Safety Specialist I Aaron Southard gave a Safety Review/Emergency Preparedness presentation (Item 7).

Assistant General Manager Steve Cole gave an update on the Bouquet Creek Restoration Project (Item 8).

General Managers Report on Activities, Projects and Programs (Item 9)

The General Manager thanked all staff who gave presentations at tonight's meeting, acknowledging that it is a testament of the caliber of staff that the Agency has and the growing capabilities and development of the organization.

He then updated the Board on the following items:

- One-on-one meetings with the Directors – He completed one on one meetings with several Directors over the last month and a half.
- Written Departmental Reports – Staff is busy with projects and initiatives to advance the Agency's strategic objectives. He encouraged the Board to read through the departmental reports, as there is a lot of great information on what the Agency is currently working on in each of the departments throughout the Agency.
- Organizational needs – He is working with the management team on a review of the organizational needs over the next three to five years.
- COVID-19 (COVID) Update – To date we have had a total of 86 reported cases of COVID among our staff. Flexible workplace staff that could work from home have been doing so since the end of December 2021, will begin transitioning back in March 2022 and be fully back to work by April 1, 2022 assuming the downward trend continues. With staff working from home it has limited potential contacts or spread at the office. Human Resources and the Safety Department have been doing a great job on contact tracing and handling the related employee leave issues.

- Additional COVID leave legislation was passed in Sacramento earlier this week. SB 114 Leave (SB 114) provides up to 80 hours of COVID related leave, retro-active to January 1, 2022. Last year the Board refilled the COVID leave bank and this year the Agency is using what is left in the EAL/COVID leave bank. He stated that staff will bring a conforming adjustment to the Agency's current EAL Policy back to the Board in March 2022 for approval. He mentioned that we will not be asking to refill the EAL leave but will need to implement the mandated leave requirements. Lastly, he said that this will only affect the employees that had to use their personal leave since January 1, above and beyond any EAL that was available to them.
- Measure W Scoring Committee – Two years ago, he was appointed as a member to the Measure W Scoring Committee. Measure W provides funding for stormwater capture and cleanup related projects across LA County. The Scoring Committee meets early fall through the spring on a regular basis and goes through a process of scoring upwards of 50 to 70 different Measure W project funding proposals. His role on the Committee is the water supply point person. The Committee members are broken up into categories based on certain expertise that they bring to the Committee. They discuss and vote as a Committee when they vote to approve an overall score that is forwarded to the Regional Oversight Committee for final action. He stated that it takes some time but is an interesting and valuable process and has helped him become more familiar with the whole Measure W system as well as provide some contribution back to the overall community.
- State Water Contractors (SWC) – The SWC recently held a Board Strategic Planning retreat to update and reflect on the organization's progress. The working relationships and staff expertise and resources of the SWC organization, combined with the resources of member contractors are beneficial to all involved. It is interesting to note that SWC has similar retirement and succession activities taking place as the Agency and has successfully recruited new key staff to replace staff who have retired or left.

In addition, over the last few years the organization has focused on developing a more robust and managed Science Program. SWC spends several million dollars on science programs every year related to either permit obligations or focused initiatives to better understand what is happening with the Delta ecosystem. Key questions include: what are the key drivers? What advances can be made in monitoring the location of species, and understanding the lifecycle and the critical factors contributing to viability or lack of viability of sensitive aquatic species of concern? A couple of years ago SWC hired a Science Manager and added it to their annual budget. In addition, they have hosted some workshops that included regulators to highlight the kind of work they are funding and build consensus and credibility.

- UWI Spring Conference – He will be attending the UWI Spring Conference that begins on February 16, 2022. The UWI Conference was shifted to a virtual conference due COVID. He added that he will be moderating one of the panels because one of the panelists came down with COVID.
- Tapia Annexation – The Board approved an Amendment to the Deposit and Funding Agreement related to the Tapia Annexation Proposal last December 2021. He reported as a follow up that Tapia has executed the Amended Agreement and has sent the required initial payment to the Agency. He also noted that review and approval of any development proposal is in the hands of the County. The agreement also addresses

what happens to the water and any deposits should the development and annexation not proceed, or should Tapia fail to make scheduled payments specified in the amended agreement.

- Central Park/Disc-Golf Issues – In regards to the public comments received on the Disc-Golf reconfiguration concept at Central Park, the City is working on this with their staff and their park planning process. He let the Board know that the development of the disc golf plan, it's timing and budget is being developed by the City and not the Agency. As the owner of the property, there are some aspects of the process the Agency will be interested in, such as the request to relocate or replace the perimeter fencing, making adjustments in the lease area to conform to that, any safety and security considerations that the Agency would want recognized in the lease terms as well as a few other sight related considerations as they move forward. These include erosion control and assurance that environmental compliance is completed by the City. Our staff is working through those issues on a staff level. He advised the Board that staff is also working on other amendments to the lease and they anticipate bringing all the changes to the Board at one time for approval.
- Budget Update – The Budget process is underway, and staff is working on its preparation. Some items to note, inflation is a key factor for consideration this year, prices for things such as treatment chemicals, energy and fuel, and construction have been increasing. CPI data for the last half of 2021 is up significantly as well. This information will be coming to the Board shortly as part of the upcoming COLA proposal for Board consideration. A possible silver lining, with the Federal Reserve raising interest rates, the Agency may start earning a bit more on cash reserves.

Committee Meeting Recap Reports for informational Purposes Only (Item 10)

Director Orzechowski had a question for Operations under the credit card purchasing. He was curious about a tool purchase from Harbor Freight.

There were no other comments on the recap reports.

President's Report (Item 11).

President Martin updated the Board on the February 2, 2022 Ad Hoc Remote Attendance Board Policy Committee meeting. Members of the Ad Hoc were Directors Armitage, Braunstein, Cooper, Gladbach and himself. The Committee discussed the policy as worded, the possible need for modifications and Director Colley's report on the matter. After discussion and consideration, the Committee unanimously recommended minor edits to make the existing policy more clear, those edits where shown in the staff report distributed at tonight's meeting.

Upon motion of Director Braunstein, seconded by Director Cooper and carried, the Board approved the two proposed amendments as suggested by the Ad Hoc Committee to the Board's policy, Section III, A.1, pertaining to remote attendance as shown in the Board packet and noted in the staff report by the following roll call votes (Item 11.1):

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Atkins	Yes
Director Braunstein	Yes	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	Yes

The President then updated the Board on upcoming meetings, events and Board reminders.

AB 1234 Written and Verbal Reports (Item 12).

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

Director Cooper reported that he attended the ACWA Workshop on February 3, 2022, attended the ACWA Board meeting on February 4, 2022, attended a one-on-one meeting with General Manager Stone on February 7, 2022 and attended the Region 8 Board meeting on February 10, 2022, all of which were held virtually.

Director Ford reported that he attended a virtual one-on-one meeting with General Manager Stone on February 14, 2022.

There were no other AB 1234 Reports.

Items 13 and 14 were removed from the Agenda and there was no discussion.

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

Director Armitage asked that the Board be provided with some CEQA Training related to projects they approve and categories of exemptions.

Director Colley asked that the Board discuss having an additional monthly Board meeting to alleviate the lateness of the current Board meetings.

There were no other requests for future agenda items.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 PM (Item 16).

April Jacobs
April Jacobs, Board Secretary

ATTEST:

Gayle Martin
President of the Board

