

**SWEETWATER AUTHORITY GOVERNING BOARD
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING**

**January 29, 2024, 5:00 p.m.
Sweetwater Authority
505 Garrett Avenue
Chula Vista, CA 91910**

***Director Martinez participated in the meeting via teleconference pursuant to
Government Code section 54953, from the following location:***

**Homewood Suites by Hilton
714 Gallatin St SW
Huntsville, Alabama 35801
Business Conference Room**

Directors Present: Josie Calderon-Scott, Steve Castaneda, Manny Delgado,
 Hector Martinez, Paulina Martinez-Perez, *Ron Morrison (5:34
 p.m.), and *Ditas Yamane (5:19 p.m.)

Staff Present: General Manager Carlos Quintero, Assistant General Manager
 Roberto Yano, Legal Counsel Nicholas Norvell, Board
 Secretary Ligia Hoffman, Information Systems Manager Tim
 Bratcher, Director of Water Quality Justin Brazil, Director of
 Engineering and Operations Erick Del Bosque, Assistant Board
 Secretary Michael Garcia, Customer Service Manager Gregg
 Harpenau-Parks, Engineering Manager Paul Oberbauer,
 Director of Administrative Services Leslie Payne, Director of
 Finance Rich Stevenson

1. Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call

Director Martinez-Perez called the meeting to order at 5:09 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

3. Chair's Presentation

3.1 Comments from the Public Regarding Agency Staff

Action Calendar Agenda

4. Items to be Added, Withdrawn, or Reordered on the Agenda

There were none.

5. Approval of Minutes**5.1 Regular Meeting of January 10, 2024****5.2 Special Meeting of January 20, 2024**

Motion by: Director Castaneda

Seconded by: Director Delgado

that the Governing Board approve the Minutes as presented for items 5.1 and 5.2.

Ayes (5): Director Calderon-Scott, Director Castaneda, Director Delgado, Director Martinez, and Director Martinez-Perez

Absent (2): Director Morrison, and Director Yamane

Motion Carried (5 to 0)

6. Consent Calendar Items

Director Castaneda recused himself from consideration of Agenda Item 6.1 due to his contract with Sempra Energy, parent company of SDG&E, which Director Castaneda disclosed on the record.

Director Calderon-Scott pulled item 6.2 for discussion.

Motion by: Director Delgado

Seconded by: Director Martinez-Perez

that the Governing Board approve Consent Calendar Items 6.1 and 6.3 through 6.13, with Director Castaneda's noted recusal on Item 6.1.

Ayes (5): Director Calderon-Scott, Director Castaneda, Director Delgado, Director Martinez, and Director Martinez-Perez

Absent (2): Director Morrison, and Director Yamane

Motion Carried (5 to 0)

6.1 Approval of San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants – December 2023**6.3 Consideration of One-time Adjustment to Customer Water Bill – El Aguila Properties, LLC**

(Finance and Administration Committee Meeting of 1/17/24)

Recommendation: Approve a one-time adjustment in the amount of \$1,665.54 to the account of El Aguila Properties LLC.

- 6.4 Consideration of a One-time Adjustment to Customer Water Bill - Rambler Motel**
(Finance and Administration Committee Meeting of 1/17/24)
Recommendation: Approve a one-time adjustment in the amount of \$5,626.04 to the account of Rambler Motel.
- 6.5 Consideration of a One-time Adjustment to Customer Water Bill - SBCS Corporation**
(Finance and Administration Committee Meeting of 1/17/24)
Recommendation: Approve a one-time adjustment in the amount of \$1,634.72 to the account of SBCS Corporation.
- 6.6 Review of Board Policies and Procedures (Policies 501 through 509)**
(Finance and Administration Committee Meeting of 1/17/24)
Recommendation: Approve Board Policies 501 through 509 as presented.
- 6.7 Recommendation to Award a Contract for Implementation Services for the Sweetwater Reservoir Wetlands Habitat Recovery Project**
(Water Quality Committee Meeting of 1/17/24)
Recommendation: Award a contract for Implementation Services to Black Sage Environmental, Inc. from San Diego, CA in the amount of \$200,000 in support of the Sweetwater Reservoir Wetlands Habitat Recovery Project under the Proposition 84 Round 4 Integrated Regional Water Management grant program.
- 6.8 Recommendation to Reject all Bids for the National City Wells Iron and Manganese Removal System Project, and Explore More Cost-Effective Alternatives and Grant Opportunities to Offset Project Costs**
(Water Quality Committee Meeting of 1/17/24)
Recommendation: Reject all bids for the construction of the National City Wells Iron and Manganese Removal System Project; and direct staff to explore other more cost-effective alternatives and grant opportunities to offset project costs.
- 6.9 Consideration of Request to Approve Easement Granted by San Diego Unified Port District Superseding Existing Easement for Public Water Infrastructure Serving the Chula Vista Bayfront H-3 Project**
(Engineering and Operations Committee Meeting of 1/22/24)
Recommendation: Authorize the General Manager to execute the Easement Granted by San Diego Unified Port District, which supersedes and quitclaims Sweetwater Authority Easements 3-SW-686 and 3-SW-787.

- 6.10 Consideration to Authorize the General Manager to Approve a Task Order for Ardurra Group, Inc. for Engineering Design Services for the New Central Wheeler Tank**
(Engineering and Operations Committee Meeting of 1/22/24)
Recommendation: Authorize the General Manager to approve a task order for Ardurra Group, Inc. to perform engineering design services for the New Central Wheeler Tank for a not-to-exceed amount of \$149,853.
- 6.11 Consideration to Authorize the General Manager to Approve a Task Order to Lee & Ro for Civil Engineering Design Services for the FY 2023-24 Tank Rehabilitation Program – Claire Vista “B”, Halecrest, Desalination Chlorine Contact, and Cherry Hills Tanks**
(Engineering and Operations Committee Meeting of 1/22/24)
Recommendation: Authorize the General Manager to execute a task order with Lee & Ro in the amount of \$149,316 to provide design services for the FY 2023-2024 Tank Rehabilitation Program, in accordance with their enclosed proposal dated December 20, 2023.
- 6.12 Consideration to Authorize the General Manager to Execute an Agreement Amendment with Geoscience Support Services, Inc. for a Well Siting Study**
(Engineering and Operations Committee Meeting of 1/22/24)
Recommendation: Authorize the General Manager to execute an amendment to the agreement with Geoscience Support Services, Inc. for an additional \$472,581, to conduct an exploratory boring, aquifer testing, and prepare a comprehensive well study report for the Well Siting Study.
- 6.13 Consideration to Approve a Task Order Amendment to GEI Consultants, Inc., to Perform Geologic Investigations for the Comprehensive Assessment of Sweetwater Dam**
(Engineering and Operations Committee Meeting of 1/22/24)
Recommendation: Authorize the General Manager to approve a task order to GEI Consultants, Inc. for a not-to-exceed amount of \$122,165, to perform geological investigations for the Comprehensive Assessment of Sweetwater Dam.

Item Pulled from Consent Calendar

- 6.2 Approval of Demands and Warrants (excludes the San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants) - December 2023**

Motion by: Director Calderon-Scott

Seconded by: Director Castaneda

that the Governing Board approve the Demands and Warrants (excluding the San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants) - December 2023.

Ayes (5): Director Calderon-Scott, Director Castaneda, Director Delgado, Director Martinez, and Director Martinez-Perez

Absent (2): Director Morrison, and Director Yamane

Motion Carried (5 to 0)

Action and Discussion Items

7. Approval of Directors' Attendance at Meetings and Future Agenda Items

There were none.

Reports and Informational Items

8. Delayed Revenue Balance Dashboard

9. Committee Minutes

**(Note: Director Yamane arrived at 5:19 p.m.)*

10. Informational Reports

10.1 Financial Reports - December 2023

10.2 Quarterly Capital Projects Report - Second Quarter FY 2023-24

10.3 Quarterly Performance Measurement Report - Second Quarter FY 2023-24

10.4 Quarterly Report of Directors' Expenses - Second Quarter FY 2023-24

10.5 Quarterly Report on Communications Plan Metrics - Second Quarter FY 2023-24

10.6 Quarterly Water Treatment Chemical Update

10.7 Bill Adjustments Summary Report

11. Report of Management

General Manager Quintero provided an update on:

- the Imported Water Purchases section added to the Monthly Dashboard;
- the recent storm and impacts to the community, and
- the Loveland to Sweetwater reservoirs water transfer and related metrics

**(Note: Director Morrison arrived at 5:34 p.m.)*

12. Report of Representatives to the San Diego County Water Authority

Director Castaneda reported on the recent meeting of the San Diego County Water Authority, including operational costs, agency master plans, the cost of consultants, governance and AB 399.

Director Yamane reported on changes happening at the SDCWA and its upcoming Board of Directors retreat.

13. Reports by Directors on Events Attended**13.1 South County Economic Development Council Meeting - January 11, 2024**

Director Castaneda provided a report.

13.2 Council of Water Utilities Meeting - January 16, 2024

Directors Castaneda, Delgado, Martinez, Morrison, and Yamane provided reports.

13.3 The Water Conservation Garden JPA Meeting - January 23, 2024

Director Yamane provided a report.

13.4 Groundwater Management Districts Association Winter Conference - January 23-25, 2024

Directors Calderon-Scott, Castaneda, Delgado, Martinez, and Morrison provided reports.

13.5 Other Events Attended**14. Directors' Comments**

Director Delgado thanked staff for the collaboration with other agencies during the recent storms.

Director Martinez expressed his excitement for the progress on solar energy and the associated cost savings.

Director Martinez-Perez thanked all for their flexibility and understanding as she enters a new phase of life.

15. Closed Session

At 6:11 p.m. the Board convened in closed session for items 15.1 through 15.5 as stated on the agenda.

15.1 Conference with Legal Counsel - Initiation of Litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(1): One potential case

15.2 Conference with Labor Negotiator pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6:

Agency Negotiators: General Manager Carlos Quintero, Assistant General Manager Roberto Yano, and Special Legal Counsel Mark Bresse

Employee Organization: Sweetwater Authority Employee's Committee

15.3 Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation - Significant Exposure to Litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(2): One potential case

15.4 Public Employee Appointment pursuant to Government Code Section 54957:

Title: Legal Counsel

15.5 Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(1):

United States, et al. ex rel John Hendrix v. J-M Manufacturing Company Inc., and Formosa Plastics Corporation, U.S.A., Case No. ED CV06-00055-GW

The Board came out of closed session at 7:09 p.m. and reconvened in open session. There were no minutes taken, and the session was not audio-recorded. There was no reportable action taken by the Governing Board.

16. Adjournment

With no further business before the Board, Chair Martinez-Perez adjourned the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

Paulina Martinez-Perez, Chair

Ligia Hoffman, Board Secretary