

SWEETWATER AUTHORITY GOVERNING BOARD
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

December 11, 2024, 5:00 p.m.
Sweetwater Authority
505 Garrett Avenue
Chula Vista, CA 91910

Directors Present: *Steve Castaneda (5:13 p.m.), Elizabeth Cox, Manny Delgado, Hector Martinez, Paulina Martinez-Perez, Ron Morrison, and *Ditas Yamane (5:24 p.m.)

Staff Present: General Manager Carlos Quintero, Assistant General Manager Roberto Yano, Legal Counsel Paula de Sousa, Assistant Board Secretary Michael Garcia, Board Secretary Ligia Hoffman, Director of Water Quality Justin Brazil, Director of Engineering and Operations Erick Del Bosque, and Director of Finance Rich Stevenson

Others Present: Michael Garrod

1. Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call

Director Martinez-Perez called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

3. Opportunity for Public Comment

There were none.

4. Chair's Presentation

4.1 Introduction and Administration of Ceremonial Oaths of Office

Re-elected Director Paulina Martinez-Perez, South Bay Irrigation District Division 2; Re-elected Director Manny Delgado, South Bay Irrigation District Division 3; and Newly Elected Director Elizabeth Cox, South Bay Irrigation District Division 5

Director Paulina Martinez-Perez took her ceremonial oath of office which was administered by her husband.

Director Delgado took his ceremonial oath of office.

Director Cox took her ceremonial oath of office.

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 Items to be Added, Withdrawn, or Reordered on the Agenda

There were none.

6. Approval of Minutes

(Note: Director Castaneda arrived at 5:13 p.m.)

Motion by: Director Martinez-Perez

Seconded by: Director Martinez

that the Governing Board approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of November 13, 2024, and the Special Board Meeting of December 2, 2024.

Ayes (4): Director Delgado, Director Martinez, Director Martinez-Perez, and Director Morrison

Abstain (2): Director Castaneda, and Director Cox

Absent (1): Director Yamane

Motion Carried (4 to 0)

6.1 Regular Board Meeting of November 13, 2024

6.2 Special Board Meeting of December 2, 2024

7. Consent Calendar Items

Director Castaneda recused himself from consideration of Agenda Item 7.1 due to his contract with Sempra Energy, parent company of SDG&E, which Director Castaneda disclosed on the record.

Motion by: Director Martinez

Seconded by: Director Delgado

that the Governing Board approve the Consent Calendar, with Director Castaneda's noted recusal on Item 7.1.

Ayes (6): Director Castaneda, Director Cox, Director Delgado, Director Martinez, Director Martinez-Perez, and Director Morrison

Absent (1): Director Yamane

Motion Carried (6 to 0)

7.1 Approval of San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants – October 2024

7.2 Approval of Demands and Warrants (excludes the San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants) - October 2024

- 7.3 Consideration to Authorize the General Manager to Execute a Contract with CWE to Prepare an Urban Runoff Diversion System Master Plan** (Water Quality Committee Meeting of 11/18/24)
Recommendation: Authorize the General Manager to execute a contract with CWE for the development of the Urban Runoff Diversion System Master Plan for a not-to-exceed amount of \$159,988 in accordance with its proposal dated October 17, 2024.
- 7.4 Consideration to Award a Contract for the Administration Bathroom Construction and Remodel Project to GQ Builders Inc** (Finance and Administration Committee of 12/2/24)
Recommendation: Award a contract for the construction of the Administration Bathroom Construction and Remodel Project to GQ Builders, Inc. for an amount of \$191,500; and approve a ten percent contingency fund in the amount of \$19,150 for the contract.
- 7.5 Consideration to Adopt Resolution 24-18, Adopting Amended Rates and Rules and the Supplement to the Rates and Rules to Approve the Proposed Changes** (Finance and Administration Committee of 12/2/24)
Recommendation: Adopt Resolution 24-18, Adopting Amended Rates and Rules and the Supplement to the Rates and Rules to Approve the Proposed Changes.
- 7.6 Approval to Renumber Resolution 24-17, Authorizing and Approving the Execution and Delivery of a Drinking Water Planning Loan (Principal Forgiveness) with the California State Water Resources Control Board, and Authorizing Certain Other Actions in Connection Therewith to Resolution 24-19**

Action and Discussion Items

- 8. Review of the One-time Adjustments to Customer's Water Bills Policy for Input, Comment, and Proposed Changes** (Finance and Administration Committee of 12/2/24)
Recommendation: Defer to the Governing Board.

(Note: Director Yamane arrived at 5:24 p.m.)

Motion by: Director Martinez
Seconded by: Director Martinez-Perez

that the Governing Board direct the policy be changed to grant an adjustment at the tier one rate every ten years, and the customer be educated on water saving devices and tips; and bring back the policy for Board review.

Ayes (6): Director Castaneda, Director Cox, Director Martinez, Director Martinez-Perez, Director Morrison, and Director Yamane

Noes (1): Director Delgado

Motion Carried (6 to 1)

9. New Business

9.1 Consideration to Authorize the General Manager to Execute a Contract with Hoch Consulting to Prepare a Grant Application to the Bureau of Reclamation for the South Bay Brackish Groundwater Desalination Facility Feasibility Study

Michael Garrod provided a presentation.

Motion by: Director Castaneda

Seconded by: Director Martinez

that the Governing Board authorize the General Manager to execute a contract with Hoch Consulting to prepare a grant application to the Bureau of Reclamation to partially fund the South Bay Brackish Groundwater Desalination Facility Feasibility Study for a not-to-exceed amount of \$53,200, inclusive of the base fee and Optional Task A, in accordance with its proposal dated November 15, 2024.

Ayes (7): Director Castaneda, Director Cox, Director Delgado, Director Martinez, Director Martinez-Perez, Director Morrison, and Director Yamane

Motion Carried Unanimously (7 to 0)

9.2 Request to Approve Quitclaim of Easements Located at 3841 Sweetwater Road in Bonita

Motion by: Director Martinez

Seconded by: Director Yamane

that the Governing Board approve the quitclaim request of easements 3-SW-35 and 3-SW-121 located at 3841 Sweetwater Road, Bonita, with assessor's parcel number 591-210-37-00, and authorize the General Manager to execute the quitclaim documents.

Ayes (7): Director Castaneda, Director Cox, Director Delgado, Director Martinez, Director Martinez-Perez, Director Morrison, and Director Yamane

Motion Carried Unanimously (7 to 0)

9.3 Consideration to Approve the FY 2024-25 Water Conservation Garden Authority Contribution Payment

Motion by: Director Martinez-Perez

Seconded by: Director Yamane

that the Governing Board approved the FY 2024-25 Water Conservation Garden Authority contribution payment not-to-exceed the previously approved amount of \$48,000; and bring back to the Board the Garden's budgeted share in excess of the \$48,000 once a report is provided by the Garden.

Ayes (7): Director Castaneda, Director Cox, Director Delgado, Director Martinez, Director Martinez-Perez, Director Morrison, and Director Yamane

Motion Carried Unanimously (7 to 0)

9.4 Consideration to Award a Contract for the Destruction of San Diego Formation Well No. 2 to Christensen Company

Michael Garrod provided a presentation.

Motion by: Director Martinez

Seconded by: Director Morrison

that the Governing Board award a contract for the destruction of San Diego Formation Well No. 2 to Layne Christensen Company of Redlands, California, for a not-to-exceed amount of \$219,565.

Ayes (7): Director Castaneda, Director Cox, Director Delgado, Director Martinez, Director Martinez-Perez, Director Morrison, and Director Yamane

Motion Carried Unanimously (7 to 0)

9.5 Consideration to Approve 2025 Board Calendar

Motion by: Director Cox

Seconded by: Director Yamane

that the Governing Board approve the 2025 Board Calendar.

Ayes (7): Director Castaneda, Director Cox, Director Delgado, Director Martinez, Director Martinez-Perez, Director Morrison, and Director Yamane

Motion Carried Unanimously (7 to 0)

9.6 Election of Board Chair and Vice Chair for the 2025 Term and Consideration to Adopt Resolution 24-20, Appointing the Chair and Vice Chair for 2025

Motion by: Director Martinez-Perez

Seconded by: Director Morrison

that the Governing Board elect Director Delgado as Chair and Director Yamane as Vice Chair; and adopt Resolution 24-20, Appointing the Chair and Vice Chair for 2025, noting to correct the year to 2025.

Ayes (7): Director Castaneda, Director Cox, Director Delgado, Director Martinez, Director Martinez-Perez, Director Morrison, and Director Yamane

Motion Carried Unanimously (7 to 0)

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

10.1 Per diem approval for Director Cox's onboarding meetings with Staff and Legal Counsel

Motion by: Director Yamane

Seconded by: Director Morrison

that the Governing Board approve per diem for Director Cox's onboarding meetings with staff and Legal Counsel.

Ayes (6): Director Cox, Director Delgado, Director Martinez, Director Martinez-Perez, Director Morrison, and Director Yamane

Absent (1): Director Castaneda

Motion Carried (6 to 0)

11. Delayed Revenue Dashboard

12. Committee Minutes

13. Financial Reports - October 2024

14. Report of Legal Counsel

There was none.

15. Report of Management

General Manager Quintero reported on the number and topics of the Board meetings happening this week.

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

Director Castaneda reported on the impacts related to the actions of Metropolitan Water District, water transportation and associated costs, the Pure Water Project, and the anticipated end to the lengthy legal issues between MWDS and the San Diego County Water Authority.

Director Yamane reported on the administration changes to the Boards and Committees and the numerous Closed Session items.

17. Reports by Directors on Events Attended

17.1 San Diego Chapter CSDA Quarterly Meeting – November 21, 2024

Directors Castaneda, Martinez, and Martinez-Perez provided reports.

17.2 ACWA/JPIA Meeting – December 2, 2024

Director Castaneda provided a report.

17.3 ACWA Conference - December 3-5, 2024

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

18. Directors' Comments

Director Castaneda congratulated the new Board member and new officers for 2025 and looks forward to tackling new challenges, including increasing customers to be informed and that the Authority is visible.

Director Delgado thanked the Board for its vote of confidence and congratulated Director Yamane as Vice Chair, and welcomed newly elected Board member Director Cox.

Director Martinez congratulated the new officers for 2025 and offered his support through upcoming challenges; and congratulated Director Cox on her election, and appreciated her questions.

Director Yamane thanked the Board for its support in her election as Vice Chair, and congratulated Director Cox on her election.

Director Cox thanked the Board for its welcome, and congratulated those elected, and the new Board officers; and thanked staff for their responsiveness.

Director Martinez-Perez thanked the Board for its support over the last three years as a Board officer.

19. Closed Session

At 7:08 p.m. the Board convened in closed session for items 19.1 through 19.4 as stated on the agenda. There was no need for closed session on item 19.5.

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

**19.2 Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(1):
Sweetwater Authority Employees' Committee v. Sweetwater Authority
Unfair Practice Charge No. LA-CE-1741-M**

**19.3 Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(1):
Camacho v. Sweetwater Authority, et al.
SDSC Case No. 24CU024290C**

**19.4 Public Employee Performance Evaluation pursuant to Government Code Section 54957:
Title: General Manager**

**19.5 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**

There were no minutes taken, and the session was not audio-recorded. The Board came out of Closed Session at 8:37 p.m. There was no reportable action taken by the Governing Board.

20. Adjournment

With no further business before the Board, Director Martinez-Perez adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

Paulina Martinez-Perez, Chair

Michael Garcia, Assistant Board Secretary