

SWEETWATER AUTHORITY GOVERNING BOARD
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

January 8, 2025, 5:00 p.m.
Sweetwater Authority
505 Garrett Avenue
Chula Vista, CA 91910

Directors Present: Steve Castaneda, Elizabeth Cox, Manny Delgado,
Hector Martinez, Paulina Martinez-Perez, Ron Morrison, and
Ditas Yamane

Staff Present: Assistant General Manager Roberto Yano, Board Secretary Ligia
Hoffman, Director of Water Quality Justin Brazil, Distribution
Manager Adam Brugman, Director of Engineering and Operations
Erick Del Bosque, Assistant Board Secretary Michael Garcia,
Legal Counsel Nicholas Norvell, and Director of Finance Rich
Stevenson

Others Present: Ben Hueso of Ex-Officio Consultants, LLC; and Sharmane
Estolano

1. Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call

Director Delgado called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

3. Opportunity for Public Comment

Sharmane Estolano commented on the recent Golden Fleece award from the San Diego County Taxpayers Association and the Authority's need for transparency; and commended the Board for listening to the concerns of the community by supporting an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed floating solar project at Sweetwater Reservoir.

4. Chair's Presentation

4.1 2025 Committees and Interagency Assignments

Assistant General Manager Yano provided a report.

ACTION CALENDAR AGENDA

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 Items to be Added, Withdrawn, or Reordered on the Agenda

Per the Assistant General Manager Yano's request, the Board concurred to pull Agenda Item 7.1 from the Consent Calendar.

6. Approval of Minutes

Motion by: Director Castaneda

Seconded by: Director Martinez

that the Governing Board approve the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting of December 11, 2024, with noted revisions, the Special Board meeting of December 12, 2024, and the Special Board meeting of December 14, 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)

6.1 Regular Board Meeting of December 11, 2024

6.2 Special Board Meeting of December 12, 2024

6.3 Special Board Meeting of December 14, 2024

7. Consent Calendar Items

Assistant General Manager Yano pulled Agenda Item 7.1 for discussion.

Motion by: Director Castaneda

Seconded by: Director Morrison

that the Governing Board approve Consent Calendar Item 7.2.

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

Motion Carried Unanimously (7 to 0)

7.2 Consideration to Award a Contract for Legislative Advocacy Services to Ex-Officio Consultants, LLC. In an Amount Not-to-Exceed \$75,000

(Legislative Affairs and Communications Committee Meeting of 12/18/24)

Recommendation: Award Ex-Officio Consultants, LLC. a legislative advocacy contract for an amount not-to-exceed \$75,000.

Item Pulled from Consent Calendar

7.1 Consideration of Sweetwater Authority Legislative Policy Guidelines

(Legislative Affairs and Communications Committee Meeting of 12/18/24)

Recommendation: Adopt the Sweetwater Authority Legislative Policy Guidelines, with modifications identifying PFAS in the guidelines.

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

that the Governing Board adopt the Sweetwater Authority Legislative Policy Guidelines, with modifications identifying PFAS in the Contaminants section of the guidelines.

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

Motion Carried Unanimously (7 to 0)

Action and Discussion Items

8. Old and Unfinished Business

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

After clarifying the process for this item, the Governing Board tabled this item for discussion at a future meeting.

9. New Business

9.1 Consideration to Authorize the General Manager to Amend the Green Fleet Plan Replacement Schedule, Perform a Fleet Optimization Study, and Purchase Three Replacement Vehicles

Director of Engineering and Operations Del Bosque provided a presentation.

Motion by: Director Martinez
Seconded by: Director Yamane

that the Governing Board authorize the General Manager to:

- a. Amend the Green Fleet Plan Replacement Schedule to better align with mandates from the California Air Resources Control Board;
- b. Direct staff to prepare and issue a Request for Proposals to perform a Fleet Optimization Study;
- c. Approve the purchase of three replacement vehicles from Chula Vista Ford for a not-to-exceed amount of \$131,845.44; and
- d. Allocate a contingency in the amount of \$13,200 for potential cost increases at the time of vehicle purchases.

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 Summary of Community Advisory Work Group (CAWG) Meetings and Consideration of New CAWG Topics

Motion by: Director Martinez

Seconded by: Director Martinez-Perez

that the Governing Board approve “Understanding PFAS” as an additional topic for future Community Advisory Work Group discussion; and direct staff to review and identify missing agenda item materials as stated by Director Cox.

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

Motion by: Director Castaneda

Seconded by: Director Yamane

that the Governing Board approve per diem for Agenda Items 10.1 and 10.2.

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

Motion Carried Unanimously (7 to 0)

10.1 Per diem approval for Directors who wish to attend the Urban Water Institute 2025 Spring Conference, Palm Springs - February 26-28, 2025

10.2 Per diem approval for Director Martinez to attend the ACWA Foundation Annual Retreat and Board Meeting, Sacramento - January 27, 2025

REPORTS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

11. Delayed Revenue Balance Dashboard

12. Committee Minutes

13. Informational Reports

13.1 Quarterly Consultant Report - December 31, 2024

13.2 Vendor Agreement Listing - December 31, 2024

13.3 Quarterly Report of One-time Water Bill Adjustments – Second Quarter FY 2024-25

14. Report of Legal Counsel

Legal Counsel Norvell reported that California Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) updated the annual gift limits which prohibits state and local officials and

employees from receiving a gift or gifts totaling more than \$630 in a calendar year from certain sources. He clarified that Form 700 reporting limit is still \$50.

15. Report of Management

There was none.

16. Report of Sweetwater Authority Director to the Water Conservation Garden Authority

Director Castaneda reported that JPA member agencies have submitted letters regarding their involvement in The Garden's future; new management's performance is very good and they are very motivated in ensuring that Sweetwater Authority residents are included in The Garden's future; and he looks forward to a presentation from its staff.

17. Reports by Directors on Events Attended

There were none.

17.1 Other Events Attended

There were none.

18. Directors' Comments

Director Martinez-Perez wished everyone a happy new year.

Director Delgado stated he looks forward to serving with everyone and wished everyone a good year.

19. Closed Session

At 6:29 p.m. the Board convened in closed session for items 19.1 through 19.3 as stated on the agenda. There was no need for closed session on item 19.4.

19.1 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 Bresee

Employee Organization: International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 47

19.2 Public Employee Performance Evaluation pursuant to Government Code Section 54957:

Title: General Manager

19.3 Public Employee Appointment pursuant to Government Code Section 54957:

Title: Legal Counsel

19.4 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 6:58 p.m. There was no reportable action taken by the Governing Board.

20. Adjournment

With no further business before the Board, Director Delgado adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

Manny Delgado, Chair

Ligia Hoffman, Board Secretary