

SWEETWATER AUTHORITY GOVERNING BOARD
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

March 26, 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 (5:03 p.m.), Ron Morrison, and Ditas Yamane

Staff Present: General Manager Carlos Quintero, Assistant General Manager Roberto Yano, Legal Counsel Paula de Sousa, Board Secretary Ligia Hoffman, Director of Water Quality Justin Brazil, Interim Director of Administrative Services Leticia Mungia, and Director of Finance Rich Stevenson

Others Present: Kathleen Hedberg of Helix Water District and President of the Water Conservation Garden JPA, Yaily Gonzalez and Harold Bailey of The Water Conservation Garden, Russel Walsh, and Karen Wood.

1. Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

(Note: Director Martinez-Perez entered the meeting at 5:03 p.m.)

3. Opportunity for Public Comment

Kathleen Hedberg stated she is a Director of Helix Water District and is currently the President of the Water Conservation Garden JPA. Shared that the Water Conservation Garden is doing great and is financially stable. She asked that the Board consider to rescind its withdrawal letter from the Water Conservation.

Yaily Gonzalez introduced herself as the Community Program Coordinator at the Water Conservation Garden, thanked the Board for its support at the Tomatomania event, spoke on the numerous workshops projected for FY 2025-26, its outreach to the community and schools, and asked that the Board rescind its withdrawal letter.

Harold Bailey introduced himself as a resident of La Mesa and is a volunteer at the Water Conservation and the many roles he has participated in the Garden, the Garden's plant collection, the increase of attendance and memberships, and looks forward to continue working with the Authority.

Russel Walsh spoke on the Loveland Reservoir, the current water transfer, his concerns regarding fires and the availability of water for firefighting, spoke on the fishing program and asked that the Board cooperate with the fish restocking.

Karen Wood introduced herself as the Director of the Friends of Loveland Reservoir, thanked Chair Delgado for his statement on the water transfer at Loveland, her concern that the transfer hasn't stopped, requested an update on the transfer status and when the valve will be closed, and her concerns seeing the water levels lower each day.

4. Chair's Presentation

4.1 Comments from the Public Regarding Agency Staff

ACTION CALENDAR AGENDA

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

There were none.

6. Approval of Minutes - Regular Board Meeting of March 12, 2025

Motion by: Director Martinez

Seconded by: Director Yamane

that the Governing Board approve the minutes of the March 12, 2025 Regular Board meeting.

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

Motion Carried (7 to 0)

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-Perez

Seconded by: Director Yamane

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

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

Motion Carried (7 to 0)

- 7.1 Approval of San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants – February 2025**
- 7.2 Approval of Demands and Warrants (excludes the San Diego Gas & Electric Demands and Warrants) - February 2025**
- 7.3 "Sacramento Outlook," presented by Glenn Farrel, GF Advocacy**
(Legislative Affairs and Communications Committee Meeting of 3/17/25)
Recommendation: No action was required by the Governing Board.
- 7.4 Update on Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Outreach Activities (Information Item)** (Legislative Affairs and Communications Committee Meeting of 3/17/25)
Recommendation: No action was required by the Governing Board.
- 7.5 Legislative Summary (Information Item)**
(Legislative Affairs and Communications Committee Meeting of 3/17/25)
Recommendation: No action was required by the Governing Board.
- 7.6 Consideration to Take a Position on Proposed Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Legislative Bills**
(Legislative Affairs and Communications Committee Meeting of 3/17/25)
Recommendation: Take a Support Position on Senate Bill 682 (Allen), and a Watch Position on Assembly Bill 794 (Gabriel).

Action and Discussion Items

8. Old and Unfinished Business

8.1 Effective Workforce Development and Constructive Labor Relations Overview (Information Item)

Interim Director of Administrative Services Mungia provided a presentation.

No action was required by the Governing Board.

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

9.1 Per diem approval for Director Yamane to attend the Policy & Innovation Center's Government & Agency Council Meeting - March 28, 2025

Director Yamane informed the Board that she would not be able to attend the event because of a schedule conflict.

No action was taken by the Governing Board.

9.2 Per diem approval for Director Cox to attend the San Diego County Water Authority Citizens Water Academy - April 9, 10 and 12, 2025

Motion by: Director Castaneda

Seconded by: Director Yamane

that the Governing Board approve the per diem for item 9.2.

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

Motion Carried (7 to 0)

10. Delayed Revenue Dashboard Dashboard

11. Committee Minutes

12. Financial Reports - February 2025

13. Report of Management

General Manager Quintero reported on:

- the transfer of approximately 7,800 acre feet of water from Loveland Reservoir and captured approximately 6,800 acre feet at Sweetwater Reservoir, both reservoirs are at 65 percent full making it a successful transfer.
- Director of Water Quality Brazil reported that the water at Sweetwater Reservoir is pretty clear.
- The intent was to shut off the valve on March 17; however, with the two storms received, staff had to reduce the flow of release.
- To keep in line with the volume of water goal, the valve was left flowing a couple of more days.
- In coordination with the resource agencies, (USGS, US Fish and Wildlife, and State Department of Fish and Wildlife) requested that the Authority keep a trickle of water flow to enhance the Arroyo Toad habitat.
- Saved the Authority from purchasing water from the San Diego County Water Authority of about \$10,800,000.
- Informed that Senator Blakespear invited Sweetwater Authority to be a witness in the Senate Environmental Quality Committee meeting next week to testify on PFAS.
- And that the remodel of the restrooms will start soon. There will be portable restrooms in the parking lot.

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

Report by representatives for the purposes of briefing the Board on items of interest and importance that appear on the previous or future San Diego County Water Authority agendas and to receive direction from the Sweetwater Authority Governing Board in representing its interests at the San Diego County Water Authority.

Director Yamane reported that the discussion of the Budget is on the agenda.

Director Castaneda reported that the agenda contains a report from the General Manager talking about cutting expenses, and the increase in rate forecasted for 2027.

15. Reports by Directors on Events Attended

15.1 CivicWell Policymakers Conference, Yosemite - March 13-16, 2025

Directors Castaneda, Cox, Delgado, Martinez, and Martinez-Perez provided a report.

15.2 Council of Water Utilities Meeting - March 18, 2025

Directors Castaneda, Cox, and Yamane provided a report.

15.3 Other Events Attended

Director Yamane reported that she attended the GMDA Conference, the UWI Conference, the Women in Water Event, attended an MWD tour, and the Water Conservation Garden meeting.

Director Morrison reported that he attended the Women in Water Event.

Director Cox reported that she attended the Women in Water Event, the InfraGard All-Hands meeting, and the Community Advisory Workgroup meeting.

16. Directors' Comments

Director Martinez commented that it was refreshing to see the Water Conservation Garden presentation and is amazed by the changes they are making.

17. Closed Session

At 6:41 p.m. the Board convened in closed session for items 17.1 through 17.5 as stated on the agenda. There was no need for closed session on item 17.6.

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

In re: Aqueous Film-Forming Foams Products Liability Litigation, Settlement Agreement Between Public Water Agencies and 3M; U.S. Dist. Ct., D. S. Carolina, Case No. 2:18-mn-2873-RMG

17.2 Conference with Legal Counsel - Initiation of Litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(4): One potential case

17.3 Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation – Significant Exposure to Litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(2): Two potential cases

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

Agency Negotiators: General Manager Carlos Quintero and Assistant General Manager Yano

Employee Organizations: IBEW Local 47, Sweetwater Authority Middle Management Group, and Sweetwater Authority Confidential Group

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

Agency Negotiators: General Manager Carlos Quintero

Unrepresented Employees: Assistant General Manager, Director of Administrative Services, Director of Engineering and Operations, Director of Finance, and Director of Water Quality

17.6 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 8:01 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.

18. Adjournment

With no further business before the Board, Chair Delgado adjourned the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

Manny Delgado, Chair

Ligia Hoffman, Board Secretary