

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency – April 16, 2024

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency was held at Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, 23780 Pine Street, Newhall, CA 91321 at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, April 16, 2024. A copy of the Agenda is inserted in the Minute Book of the Agency preceding these minutes. The meeting recording can be accessed by clicking on the following link: [Board Meeting Recording](#).

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Kathye Armitage, Beth Braunstein, Ed Colley, Maria Gutzeit, Dirk Marks, Gary Martin, Piotr Orzechowski (Arrived at 6:05 PM) and Ken Petersen.

DIRECTORS ABSENT: William Cooper.

Also present: Administrative Services Manager Kim Grass, Assistant General Manager Steve Cole, Board Secretary April Jacobs, Chief Engineer Courtney Mael, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer Rochelle Patterson, Chief Operating Officer Keith Abercrombie, General Counsel Joe Byrne, General Manager Matthew Stone, Information Technology Technician II Jonathan Thomas, Senior Engineers Orlando Moreno and Robert Banuelos (Virtually), Sustainability Manager Matt Dickens, as well as additional SCV Water Agency staff (Virtually), and members of the public (In Person and Virtually).

President Martin called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. A quorum was present.

There were no changes to the April 16, 2024 Board Agenda and it was accepted as shown (Item 4).

President Martin opened the Public Hearing at 6:04 PM to consider adopting a mandatory recycled water use ordinance. Assistant General Manager Steve Cole introduced the item and Sustainability Manager Matt Dickens presented. The public and Board were then given an opportunity to ask questions and make comments. (Item 5.1).

President Martin closed the Public Hearing at 7:23 PM.

President Martin recommended that Item 5.2, to consider and adopt an ordinance to provide for mandatory use of recycled water within the Agency’s service area, be tabled and brought back at a future Board meeting to allow staff more time to research and address any concerns brought up by both the Board and members of the public. Upon motion of Vice President Gutzeit, seconded by Director Braunstein and carried, the Board approved tabling this item to a future date by the following roll call votes (Item 5.2):

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Braunstein	Yes
Director Colley	No	Director Cooper	Absent
Vice President Gutzeit	Yes	Director Marks	Yes
President Martin	Yes	Vice President Orzechowski	Yes
Director Petersen	Yes		

Upon motion of Director Braunstein, seconded by Director Armitage and carried, the Board approved the Consent Calendar including Resolution Nos. SCV-416, SCV-417 and SCV-418 by the following roll call votes (Item 6):

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Braunstein	Yes
Director Colley	Yes	Director Cooper	Absent
Vice President Gutzeit	Yes	Director Marks	Yes
President Martin	Yes	Vice President Orzechowski	Yes
Director Petersen	Yes		

RESOLUTION NO. SCV-416

RESOLUTION CALLING THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY ELECTION FOR OFFICES OF THE AGENCY'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND REQUESTING CONSOLIDATION OF SAID ELECTION WITH THE NOVEMBER 5, 2024 STATEWIDE GENERAL ELECTION AND APPROVING REQUIREMENTS OF THE CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

[FULL RESOLUTION MAY BE VIEWED BY VISITING THE SCV WATER WEBSITE](#)

RESOLUTION NO. SCV-417

JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ACTING IN BEHALF OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY GENERAL FUND, LOS ANGELES COUNTY CONSOLIDATED FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF SANTA CLARITA VALLEY SANITATION DISTRICT OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY, AND THE GOVERNING BODIES OF GREATER LOS ANGELES COUNTY VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT, CITY OF SANTA CLARITA, SANTA CLARITA STREET LIGHTING MAINTENANCE DISTRICT NO. 2, SANTA CLARITA LIBRARY, SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY, APPROVING AND ACCEPTING NEGOTIATED EXCHANGE OF PROPERTY TAX REVENUES RESULTING FROM ANNEXATION TO SANTA CLARITA VALLEY SANITATION DISTRICT "ANNEXATION NO. 1120"

[FULL RESOLUTION MAY BE VIEWED BY VISITING THE SCV WATER WEBSITE](#)

RESOLUTION NO. SCV-418

JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ACTING IN BEHALF OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY GENERAL FUND, LOS ANGELES COUNTY CONSOLIDATED FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF SANTA CLARITA VALLEY SANITATION DISTRICT OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY, AND THE GOVERNING BODIES OF GREATER LOS ANGELES COUNTY VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT, CITY OF SANTA CLARITA, SANTA CLARITA STREET LIGHTING MAINTENANCE DISTRICT NO. 2, SANTA CLARITA LIBRARY, SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY APPROVING AND ACCEPTING NEGOTIATED EXCHANGE OF PROPERTY TAX

REVENUES RESULTING FROM ANNEXATION TO SANTA CLARITA VALLEY SANITATION DISTRICT "ANNEXATION NO. 1133"

FULL RESOLUTION MAY BE VIEWED BY VISITING THE SCV WATER WEBSITE

Upon motion of Vice President Orzechowski, seconded by Director Marks and carried, the Board adopted (1) Resolution No. SCV-419 awarding a construction contract to JR Filanc Construction Company, Inc in the amount not to exceed \$17,822,347.00 and finding the project is exempt from CEQA Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, (2) authorized the General Manager to execute a purchase order with Hazen and Sawyer, Inc., in the amount not to exceed \$748,440, for engineering services during construction and (3) authorized the General Manager to execute a purchase order with MWH Constructors Inc., in the amount not to exceed \$984,454, for the construction management, inspection services, and material testing for the T7, U4 and U6 Wells PFAS Treatment, Saugus 1 and 2 Wells VOC Treatment and new Disinfection Facility by the following roll call votes (Item 7.1):

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Braunstein	Yes
Director Colley	Yes	Director Cooper	Absent
Vice President Gutzeit	Yes	Director Marks	Yes
President Martin	Yes	Vice President Orzechowski	Yes
Director Petersen	Yes		

RESOLUTION NO. SCV-419

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY
AWARDING A CONTRACT TO JR FILANC CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC. FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE T7, U4 AND U6 WELLS PFAS TREATMENT, SAUGUS 1 AND 2 WELLS VOC TREATMENT AND NEW DISINFECTION FACILITY PROJECT AND FINDING THE PROJECT EXEMPT FROM CEQA PURSUANT TO CEQA GUIDELINES SECTION**

FULL RESOLUTION MAY BE VIEWED BY VISITING THE SCV WATER WEBSITE

Upon motion of Director Braunstein, seconded by Director Marks and carried, the Board adopted Resolution No. SCV-420 authorizing the General Manager to execute a purchase order amendment for engineering and inspection services to Richard C. Slade & Associates, LLC for an amount not to exceed \$442,300 for the Saugus #3 and #4 Wells Construction (Replacement Wells) Project by the following roll call votes (Item 7.2):

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Braunstein	Yes
Director Colley	Yes	Director Cooper	Absent
Vice President Gutzeit	Yes	Director Marks	Yes
President Martin	Yes	Vice President Orzechowski	Yes
Director Petersen	Yes		

RESOLUTION NO. SCV-420

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY TO
APPROVE AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE A PURCHASE
ORDER AMENDMENT FOR ENGINEERING AND INSPECTION SERVICES FOR THE
SAUGUS #3 AND #4 WELLS CONSTRUCTION (REPLACEMENT WELLS) PROJECT AND
FINDING THE RESOLUTION EXEMPT FROM REVIEW UNDER THE CALIFORNIA
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT**

[FULL RESOLUTION MAY BE VIEWED BY VISITING THE SCV WATER WEBSITE](#)

General Manager's Report on Activities, Projects and Programs (Item 8).

The General Manager reported on the following:

He mentioned that the EPA released its final PFAS Drinking Water Regulations on April 8, 2024 and submitted them to the Federal Register for publication on April 10, 2024. He stated that the water providers across the nation will have three years to complete monitoring and five years to complete treatment to meet the standard. He advised that staff is evaluating the additional impacts.

He then mentioned SCV Water's press release that came out yesterday, stating the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals issued its decision on the appeal and cross appeal in the SCVWA v Whittaker case. He said as we hoped, the court upheld the jury award of \$65.8 million, which is also accruing interest, and found in favor of some of SCV Water's cross appeals.

He reported that on April 10, 2024, SCV Water sent a letter to the LA Regional Water Quality Control Board requesting additional sampling at the Chiquita Canyon Landfill. The primary request was to conduct sampling of the south and east sedimentation basins as well as a request that once ordered, those groundwater monitoring wells get sampled for PFAS. Finally, he stated that we requested that sampling at the east basin include VOC's and metal similar to the Regional Board's requirement for the south basin.

He updated the Board on the recent All Employee meeting held on April 10, 2024 where staff received updates on recent policy changes, updates on PFAS, welcomed new staff and acknowledged employee work anniversaries.

Lastly, he informed the Board that on May 15, 2024 at the Annual California Association of Public Information Officials Award Gala (CAPIO), Communications Manager Kevin Strauss will be awarded the CAPIO Communicator of the Year Award.

To hear the full comments, please refer to the Board recording by clicking the meeting recording link on the first page of these minutes or visiting the SCV Water Website.

Committee Meeting Recap Report for Informational Purposes Only (Item 9).

There were no comments on the recap report.

President's Report (Item 10).

President Martin updated the Board on upcoming meetings and events.

AB 1234 Written and Verbal Reports (Item 11).

A written report was submitted by President Martin which was emailed, posted to the website and is part of the record.

Director Marks reported that he virtually attended the ACWA Groundwater Committee, SGMA Implementation Sub-Committee held on April 11, 2024.

Director Gutzeit reported that she virtually attended a One-on-One meeting with General Manager Stone on April 8, 2024.

There were no **other** AB 1234 Reports.

Director Reports (Item 12).

Director Armitage shared that she is on the ACWA Local Government Committee and it is forming a new Sub-Committee called the City and County Planning Nexus Sub-Committee which she volunteered to join. They will be having their first meeting soon to set priorities and a general work plan.

She also mentioned the upcoming LA County Water Plan Water Resiliency Summit being held on April 29, 2024.

To hear the full report, please refer to the Board recording by clicking the meeting recording link on the first page of these minutes or visiting the SCV Water Website.

There were no other Director reports.

The Board went into Closed Session at 8:22 PM to discuss Item 13.1:

Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation – Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Paragraph (2) of Subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9, Claim of Claimant Stephanie Reitenbach Against Santa

Clarita Valley Water Agency, Claim for Personal Injury and Past and Future Loss of Consortium Damages, Date of Claim March 20, 2024

The Zoom meeting was put on hold while the Board went into Closed Session. President Martin advised the public and staff that for those who wanted to stay, to remain on the current teleconference line and once Closed Session ends, the Board would reconvene for Closed Session announcements and the conclusion of the meeting.

President Martin reconvened the Open Session at 8:26 PM.

Joe Byrne, Esq., reported that pertaining to Item 13.1 Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation – Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Paragraph (2) of Subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9, Claim of Claimant Stephanie Reitenbach Against Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, Claim for Personal Injury and Past and Future Loss of Consortium Damages, Date of Claim March 20, 2024, the Board unanimously voted to reject the claim and submit it to the Agency’s Joint Powers Insurance Authority, upon motion of Vice President Orzechowski, seconded by Director Braunstein and carried, by the following roll call votes:

Director Armitage	Yes	Director Braunstein	Yes
Director Colley	Yes	Director Cooper	Absent
Vice President Gutzeit	Yes	Director Marks	Yes
President Martin	Yes	Vice President Orzechowski	Yes
Director Petersen	Yes		

There were no other actions taken in Closed Session that were reportable under the Ralph M. Brown Act (Item 14).

Director Requests for future Agenda Items (Item 15).

Director Braunstein requested that the Board have a conversation about recycled water vs. direct potable reuse water.

Director Armitage requested that the Board have a conversation on communicating with HOA’s and working better with them. She stated maybe this is an item that could go to the Public Outreach and Legislation Committee for discussion.

To hear the requests in their entirety, please refer to the Board recording by clicking the meeting recording link on the first page of these minutes or visiting the SCV Water Website.

There were no other requests for future Agenda items.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM (Item 16).

Signature on File

April Jacobs, Board Secretary

ATTEST:

Signature on File
President of the Board

