



MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2023
SEXUAL HARASSMENT PREVENTION / RESPECTFUL WORKPLACE TRAINING 5:00 – 7:00 PM
AGENDA 7:10 PM

In response to COVID-19 (coronavirus), Soquel Creek Water District's February 21, 2023 Board Meeting was held remotely via Zoom.

Recorded Meetings: Recorded meetings are available on the District's website:

<https://www.soquelcreekwater.org/AgendaCenter>

00. SEXUAL HARASSMENT PREVENTION / RESPECTFUL WORKPLACE TRAINING

Item Removed – Training Postponed

0. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

President Christensen called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm via Zoom.

Board Members Present:

Carla Christensen, President
Dr. Bruce Jaffe, Vice-President, *Absent*
Dr. Bruce Daniels, Director, *Absent*
Dr. Thomas LaHue, Director
Rachél Lather, Director

District Counsel

Joshua Nelson, District Counsel

Staff Members Present:

Ron Duncan, General Manager
Shelley Flock, Water Resources Manager
Taj Dufour, Engineering Manager
Leslie Strohm, Finance Manager
Traci Hart, Human Resources Manager
Nick Emmert, Operations and Maintenance Manager, Interim
Melanie Mow Schumacher, Special Projects-Communications Manager / Assistant General Manager
Rebecca Rubin, Public Outreach Coordinator
Emma Western, Executive Assistant/Board Clerk

Others Present:

Jennifer Balboni, Public Member on the Water Resources Management and Infrastructure Committee
Sierra Ryan, Water Resources Program Manager at the County of Santa Cruz

1. CLOSED SESSION

1.1 Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Section §54956.9(d)(1)

Steinbruner vs. California Coastal Commission, et al., San Francisco County Superior Court Case No. CPF-20517119; CA First District Court of Appeals Case Nos. A163079, A163199
Steinbruner v. Soquel Creek Water District, et al. Santa Cruz County Superior Court Case No. 21CV01517
Steinbruner v. Soquel Creek Water District, et al. Santa Cruz County Superior Court Case No. 21CV02699; CA Sixth District Court of Appeals Case No. H050093

1.2 Conference With Labor Negotiators

Agency designated representative(s): Ron Duncan, Traci Hart, Melanie Mow Schumacher, Leslie Strohm

Employee Organization: Service Employees International Union (SEIU)

At 7:11 pm, President Christensen announced that the Board will return to closed session to discuss Items 1.1 and 1.2.

CONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION – 7:11 pm

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION – 7:37 pm

President Christensen adjourned the closed session and returned to open session at 7:37 pm.

President Christensen reported that the Board discussed Items 1.1 and 1.2 in closed session. No reportable action was taken.

2. **PUBLIC HEARING** – *None*

3. **BOARD MEMBERS' OPPORTUNITY TO REMOVE ITEMS FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

In response to a question posed by Director LaHue, staff confirmed that, if approved, Consent Agenda Item 4.6 will cast the District's vote for Director Rachél Lather to serve as the regular special district member on the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) Board.

None removed.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Directors recognized staffs' hard work related to the hydraulic distribution modeling.

MOTION: Director Lather; Second: Director LaHue; To approve Consent Agenda Items 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7 and 4.8. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote. Vice-President Jaffe and Director Daniels absent.
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4.1 Approval of Minutes

4.1.1 December 20, 2022 – Regular Meeting Minutes

4.1.2 January 17, 2023 – Regular Meeting Minutes

Action: Approved

4.2 Production Reports

Action: Approved

4.3 Management Update

Action: Approved

- 4.4 Public Outreach Committee Meeting Summary
Action: Approved
- 4.5 Water Resources Management and Infrastructure Committee Meeting Summary
Action: Approved
- 4.6 2023 Election of Special District Member on Local Agency Formation Commission Board (LAFCO)
Action: Approved
- 4.7 Approval of Scope of Work for Hydraulic Distribution Modeling to Support the Water Optimization Study
Action: Approved
- 4.8 Mar Vista Dr. Main and Fire Hydrant Relocation, CWO 22-0211, Adopt Plans and Specifications, Call for Bids
Action: Approved

5. **ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS** *(items not on the Agenda)*

Written communications addressed to the Board are available on the District's website:
<https://www.soquelcreekwater.org/AgendaCenter>

Director LaHue shared that he recently met with Rosemary Menard, Water Director for the City of Santa Cruz, to receive an update on the City's efforts. He stated that the meeting was valuable, and he was impressed with all the work the City has done and continues to do.

6. **REPORTS**

- 6.1 District Counsel – Oral Report

General Counsel reminded that the Brown Act in-person return.

- 6.2 Santa Cruz County Water Resources Management Status Report for 2022

Sierra Ryan, the Water Resources Program Manager at the County of Santa Cruz, reviewed the Santa Cruz County Water Resources Management Status Report for 2022. Her presentation is available online: <https://www.soquelcreekwater.org/AgendaCenter>

Directors expressed appreciation for the report and the presentation.

One public comment was heard.

7. **ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

- 7.1 Conditional and Unconditional Will Serve Letters
 - 7.1.1 Conditional Will Serve for Redevelopment of Existing Commercial Property to a Tier II 36-Unit Affordable Housing Project at 4401 Capitola Rd. APN: 034-124-21 (CRP Affordable Housing)

Mr. Dufour reviewed the conditional will serve application for the 36-unit affordable housing project at 4401 Capitola Rd., Capitola.

In response to several Board questions, Mr. Dufour shared the planning set for the project, The Bluffs at 44th, which is available online: <https://www.soquelcreekwater.org/AgendaCenter>

MOTION: Director Lather; Second: Director LaHue; To approve a conditional will serve letter for the multifamily residence at 4401 Capitola Rd., Capitola, APN 034-124-21. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote. Vice-President Jaffe and Director Daniels absent.

7.2 Consider Approving Release of Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Professional Services to Evaluate Collaboration Strategies for Scotts Valley Water District and Soquel Creek Water District

Mr. Duncan reviewed Item 7.2, which presents a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Professional Services to Evaluate Collaboration Strategies for Scotts Valley Water District (SVWD) and Soquel Creek Water District (SqCWD). He stated that the Board may appoint up to two Board Members to participate in the review and selection committee.

Board discussion ensued regarding the schedule and Directors' availability to serve on the review and selection committee. There was consensus to appoint President Christensen and Director Lather to the committee.

Mr. Duncan confirmed that the review and selection committee's recommendation will be brought to both SqCWD and SVWD Boards for consideration.

Director LaHue stated that he can serve as an alternate, if needed. General Counsel Nelson confirmed that this is permissible as long as serial meetings do not occur.

MOTION: Director LaHue; Second: Director Christensen; To approve the attached RFQ allowing for any minor and non substantial edits that the SVWD Board may have and that are approved by SqCWD General Counsel. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote. Vice-President Jaffe and Director Daniels absent.

MOTION: Director LaHue; Second: Director Christensen; To appoint President Christensen and Director Lather to participate on the RFQ review and selection committee; and designate Director LaHue as an alternate on the review and selection committee. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote. Vice-President Jaffe and Director Daniels absent.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

President Christensen adjourned the meeting at 8:19 pm.

SUBMITTED:



Emma Western, Board Clerk

APPROVED:



Carla Christensen, President