



**MEETING MINUTES
SEXUAL HARASSMENT PREVENTION/RESPECTFUL WORKPLACE TRAINING 4:45 PM – 5:45 PM
REGULAR MEETING – 6:00 PM
TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021**

In response to COVID-19 (coronavirus), Soquel Creek Water District's March 2, 2021 Board Meeting was held remotely via Zoom.

Recorded Meetings: Recorded meetings can be viewed anytime on the District's [website](#).

President Lather called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm via Zoom.

0. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Board Members Present:

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

District Counsel

Joshua Nelson, District Counsel

Staff Members Present:

Ron Duncan, General Manager
Shelley Flock, Conservation and Customer Service Field Manager
Taj Dufour, Engineering Manager
Leslie Strohm, Finance Manager
Traci Hart, Human Resources Manager
Christine Mead, Operations & Maintenance Manager
Melanie Mow Schumacher, Special Projects-Communications Manager
Emma Olin, Executive Assistant/Board Clerk
Rebecca Rubin, Public Outreach Coordinator
Alyssa Abbey, Staff Analyst

Others Present:

2 members of the public
Heidi Luckenbach, City 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. Soquel Creek Water District et al., Santa Cruz County Superior Court Case Nos. 19AP00031 19AP00030 19CV00181; CA Sixth District Court of Appeals Case No. H048738
Steinbruner v. California Coastal Commission, et al., San Francisco County Superior Court Case No. CPF- 20517119
- 1.2 Conference With Real Property Negotiators
Property: Right-of-way easement for 2505 Chanticleer Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Agency negotiator(s): Ron Duncan and Taj Dufour
Negotiating parties: Kimberly Finley, Santa Cruz County
Under negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment

- 1.3 Closed Session Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54597(b)
Personnel Session to Evaluate Performance of General Manager

At 6:02 pm, President Lather announced that the Board will meet in closed session to discuss Items 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3.

One public comment was heard prior to the start of closed session.

CONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION – 6:04 pm

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION – 6:44 pm

President Lather adjourned the closed session and returned to open session at 6:44 pm.

President Lather reported that the Board discussed Items 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 in closed session. No action was taken.

2. **PUBLIC HEARING** - None

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

None removed.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

MOTION: Vice-President LaHue; Second: Director Jaffe; To approve Consent Agenda Items 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

- 4.1 Approval of Minutes
4.1.1 February 16, 2021 – Regular Meeting Minutes
Action: Approved

- 4.2 Board Planning Calendar
Action: Approved

- 4.3 Special Board Assignments Status Report
Action: Approved

- 4.4 Approve Amendment to Agreement with Water Systems Consulting, Inc. to Prepare the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan
Action: Approved

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

Written communications addressed to the Board are available [online](#).

One public comment was heard.

Director Jaffe responded to public comment. He directed staff to follow up regarding the claims made during public comment and reach out to any public members, if warranted.

6. **REPORTS** – *None*

7. **ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

7.1 Conditional and Unconditional Will Serve Letters – *None*

7.2 Request for Board Direction on Inclusion of a Rainfall-Based Trigger Condition to be Used in the Water Shortage Contingency Plan Update

Ms. Flock reviewed Item 7.2, requesting that the Board provide direction on whether a rainfall-based trigger condition should be included in the 2020 Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP). She explained that the rainfall-based trigger condition would be in addition to a groundwater based trigger condition.

Ms. Flock stated that the WSCP is an integral part of the Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP), which is due to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) in July 2021. A main component of crafting the WSCP is determining what trigger conditions best indicate a short- or long-term supply shortage.

Ms. Flock introduced the District's hydrogeology consultant, Mr. Cameron Tana of Montgomery & Associates (M&A), who is available to answer any questions from the Board.

One public comment was heard.

Director Daniels responded to public comment.

Board discussion ensued, and staff and Mr. Tana responded to a variety of questions regarding groundwater modeling, the pros and cons of including a rainfall-based trigger and the rainfall-recharge relationship.

Ms. Flock confirmed that staff is requesting Board direction on whether a rainfall-based trigger condition should be included in the 2020 WSCP. If the Board would like to consider rainfall as a trigger condition, staff is recommending moving forward with Option 1, to continue using the existing rainfall-based trigger condition, which uses the Precipitation Runoff Modeling System (PRMS) recharge model. Ms. Flock explained that the advantage of this option allows for consideration of below average rainfall over multiple years, while placing a greater weight on a groundwater-based trigger condition.

Mr. Tana stated that he does not believe a rainfall-based trigger is necessary in the WSCP, stating that he is supportive of only using the groundwater-based trigger condition. He emphasized that groundwater levels are the best indicator of water supply shortages.

Director Daniels discussed the challenges and complexities associated with groundwater modeling. He expressed support for Option 1, using the existing rainfall-based trigger condition in addition to the groundwater based trigger condition. He explained that once the Pure Water Soquel (PWS) Project is online, groundwater modeling will need to be reevaluated, so he is not in favor of updating it at this time. Board Members agreed.

Director Christensen also expressed support for including a rainfall-based trigger in the WSCP. She stated that this provides staff the flexibility of responding preemptively to winter climate conditions,

when determining a curtailment target. Director Daniels added that the groundwater metric is based on a 5-year average, and the rainfall-based trigger may respond to changing conditions more quickly.

Vice-President LaHue reiterated that he believes the groundwater-based trigger should be the primary tool in the WSCP for determining the shortage stage; however, he is supportive of including a rainfall trigger condition in the WSCP as well. Board Members agreed.

Ms. Flock stated that staff is working with consultants to develop the groundwater-based trigger condition for the WSCP, and staff can present a preview at the next Board Meeting, if desired.

There was consensus among the Board to direct staff to move forward with Option 1, using the existing rainfall-based trigger condition, in addition to the groundwater based trigger condition. The Board requested that staff present a preview of the newly developed groundwater-based trigger condition at the next Board Meeting.

MOTION: Director Daniels; Second: Director Jaffe; To direct staff to keep the current rainfall trigger condition based on the Precipitation Runoff Modeling System (PRMS) recharge model originally created by Hydrometrics in 2011 (now Montgomery & Associates). Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

7.3 Progress Report of the Performance of the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Leak Detection, Provide Direction if Desired

Ms. Abbey provided an update on the progress of the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) installation, leak detection capabilities, and water savings in 2020.

One public comment was heard.

Board discussion ensued, and staff responded to a variety of questions regarding the AMI network infrastructure and the leak notification process.

Director Jaffe thanked staff for their hard work. He emphasized the value of the AMI technology and requested that an item be agendaized to provide the Board the opportunity to continue discussing ways to improve and enhance the technology and outreach. Board Members agreed.

Director Christensen expressed appreciation for the excellent analysis and report. She is supportive of increased outreach prior to irrigation season.

President Lather stated that many of her neighbors are utilizing the WaterSmart software, and she has received positive feedback. She thanked staff for their hard work.

MOTION: Director Jaffe; Second: Vice-President LaHue; To direct staff to provide an update in 6 months on the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Leak Detection. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

7.4 Consider Nomination of District Representative on the California Special District Association (CSDA) Board of Directors

Mr. Duncan stated that the California Special District Association (CSDA) is currently seeking nominations for Seat A of the Coastal Network for the 2022-2024 term. He stated that the Board may nominate a District Board Member (or the General Manager) for Seat A of the CSDA Board.

Mr. Duncan stated that CSDA provides value to the District by offering education and training, legislative support and representation, collaboration opportunities with other special districts and current information.

Mr. Duncan stated that staff can help any interested Board Member with the nomination form and interview process.

In response to a question posed by Director Christensen, Ms. Olin confirmed that the incumbent plans to run for Seat A of the Coastal Network.

Discussion ensued, and there was consensus among the Board not to nominate a District representative for the CSDA Board.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

- 7.5 Consider Approval of the Agreement to Extend the Term of the Cooperative Water Transfer/Purchase Pilot Project for Groundwater Recharge and Water Resource Management Between the City of Santa Cruz and Soquel Creek Water District

Mr. Duncan stated that this item is presented for the Board to consider extending the 2016 Agreement for the Cooperative Water Transfer and Purchase and Water Resource Management Pilot Project between the City of Santa Cruz and Soquel Creek Water District to May 1, 2026. Mr. Duncan noted the increase in the price of the water from \$1,000 to \$1,930 per million gallons.

One public comment was heard.

Director Christensen confirmed that the District purchased approximately 165 acre-feet of water from the City of Santa Cruz in 2018-2019.

Directors expressed support for extending the agreement and emphasized the following:

- Water purchase/transfers are one small component of the District's water supply portfolio; however, the Pure Water Soquel (PWS) Project is the District's primary supplemental supply project to bring the groundwater basin out of overdraft and prevent further seawater intrusion.
- Continued water quality monitoring is needed throughout the extension of the project.

MOTION: Director Daniels; Second: Director Christensen; To authorize the President of the Board of Directors to execute, pursuant to the Negative Declaration adopted by the City Council of Santa Cruz in February of 2016 and the addendum to the Negative Declaration affirmed by the City Council in February of 2021, an extension of the 2016 Agreement for the Cooperative Water Transfer and Purchase and Water Resource Management Pilot Project between the City of Santa Cruz and Soquel Creek Water District in a form approved by the District General Counsel, including extending the term of the agreement to May 1, 2026 and increasing the price per million gallons of water transferred from \$1,000 to \$1,930. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

8. ADJOURNMENT

President Lather adjourned the meeting at 8:21 pm.

SUBMITTED:



Emma Olin, Board Clerk

APPROVED:



Rachél Lather, President