



**MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING – 6:00 PM
TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2022**

In response to COVID-19 (coronavirus), Soquel Creek Water District's June 21, 2022 Board Meeting was held remotely via Zoom.

Recorded Meetings: Recorded meetings are available on the District's website:
<https://www.soquelcreekwater.org/AgendaCenter>

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

0. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Board Members Present:

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

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
Nate Gillespie, Operations & Maintenance Manager
Melanie Mow Schumacher, Special Projects-Communications Manager
Emma Olin, Executive Assistant/Board Clerk
Ryan Kinney, Supervising Accountant

Others Present:

Charlotte Holifield, California Special Districts Association (CSDA)

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. H047733
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 vs. Soquel Creek Water District et al., Santa Cruz County Superior Court Case No. 21CV00537
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

At 6:00 pm, President LaHue announced that the Board will meet in closed session to discuss Item 1.1.

CONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION – 6:00 pm

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION – 6:20 pm

President LaHue adjourned the closed session and returned to open session at 6:20 pm.

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

2. **PUBLIC HEARING** – *None*

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

None removed.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

MOTION: Director Daniels; Second: Vice-President Christensen; To approve Consent Agenda Items 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote. Director Jaffe absent.

4.1 Approval of Minutes

4.1.1 June 7, 2022 – Regular Meeting Minutes

Action: Approved

4.2 Extend Resolution 21-21 and Re-Authorize Virtual Public Meetings in Accordance with AB 361

Action: Approved

4.3 Production Reports

Action: Approved

4.4 Management Update

Action: Approved

4.5 Pure Water Soquel (PWS) Seawater Intrusion Prevention (SWIP) Well Site Equipping Project, Bid Award, Notice of Exemption and Approval of Scope of Work for Engineering Services During Construction (ESDC’s), CWO 20-3000

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>

Vice-President Christensen suggested that the District share the Washington Post article, “Historic drought has depleted groundwater, melted the snowpack and dried out lakes — and it will get worse,” dated June 16, 2022. Mr. Duncan confirmed that staff will share the article.

Director Lather stated that her neighbors reported three blowouts, and she requested that staff investigate the connection at N. Polo Drive in Aptos. Mr. Duncan and Mr. Dufour confirmed that staff will follow up.

President LaHue shared that he recently spent time in the Sierras, and the lakes are low. He emphasized that water is a precious resource, and he is proud that the District is taking action to move toward water sustainability.

6. **REPORTS**

6.1 District Counsel – Oral Report

General Counsel Nelson provided an update on two proposed bills, Assembly Bill (AB) 1944 and Assembly Bill (AB) 2449, which advocate for changes to the Brown Act and remote public meetings. He will continue to monitor their status.

In response to a question from President LaHue, General Counsel Nelson stated that there will be an update on the two pending bills in late summer/early fall at the end of the legislative cycle. He added that Assembly Bill (AB) 361, which permits virtual public meetings, remains in effect.

7. **ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

7.1 Conditional and Unconditional Will Serve Letters – *None*

7.2 Presentation by Special District Leadership Foundation for Transparency Certificate of Excellence

Ms. Mow Schumacher stated that the District has renewed its “Transparency Certificate of Excellence” from the California Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF). The certificate is awarded in recognition of outstanding transparency and good governance. She noted that the District was the first special district in Santa Cruz County to receive this award in 2015.

Ms. Mow Schumacher introduced Ms. Charlotte Holifield on behalf of the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF), who is presenting at tonight’s meeting.

Ms. Holifield presented the Transparency Certificate of Excellence to the District.

The Board thanked staff for their hard work and commitment to this important effort.

INFORMATION ONLY

7.3 Government Technology Special Districts Awards Program “Ideas Worth Sharing” for 2022 Leadership Category - Innovative Technologies to Ensure Sustainable Water

Ms. Mow Schumacher stated that the Government Technology Special Districts Awards Program, “Ideas Worth Sharing,” selected the District as the winner for the Leadership Category - Innovative Technologies to Ensure Sustainable Water. This recognition is for using innovative technologies for the Pure Water Soquel (PWS) Project. As a preliminary recipient, the District is eligible to be selected as District of the Year in December.

Ms. Mow Schumacher shared the District’s web page, Awards and Certificates:
<https://www.soquelcreekwater.org/240/Awards-Certificates>

In response to a question posed by Director Lather, Ms. Mow Schumacher confirmed that this award is specifically for leadership.

Mr. Duncan thanked Ms. Mow Schumacher for continuing to pursue opportunities on behalf of the District. President LaHue agreed.

INFORMATION ONLY

7.4 Adopt Draft 2022/23 Budget

Ms. Strohm stated that the draft fiscal year (FY) 2022/23 Budget was presented and reviewed by the Board at the May 3, 2022 Board Workshop. She reviewed the following changes to the draft budget since the workshop:

- The Aptos Creek Well Property Acquisition for \$400,000 was moved to the Unfunded Projects list.
- Funds were added for the upcoming labor negotiations.

Ms. Strohm stated that she plans to submit the approved budget to the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for the Distinguished Budget Award.

Ms. Strohm thanked the District's Supervising Accountant, Ryan Kinney, for his hard work developing the budget.

Directors expressed support for the 2022/23 budget. Remarks were made that the budget is comprehensive, easy-to-understand, and informative.

Director Lather expressed support for the visuals in the budget, and she suggested that staff consider including captions on the pictures, particularly on those with individuals outside of the District (e.g., State representatives).

President LaHue stated that the budget goes above and beyond a financial document and provides a snapshot of the District's finances, operations, and priorities.

Mr. Duncan noted that the opening photo for the budget is of Pure Water Soquel (PWS) Project hard hats, which reflects the District's active construction efforts that will continue this fiscal year.

Ms. Strohm noted that she plans to add performance metrics for each department before she submits the budget to the GFOA.

MOTION: Vice-President Christensen; Second: Director Daniels; To incorporate any minor designated modifications and adopt the Draft 2022/23 Budget as final. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote. Director Jaffe absent.
--

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

President LaHue adjourned the meeting at 7:35 pm.

SUBMITTED:



Emma Olin, Board Clerk

APPROVED:



Dr. Tom LaHue, President