



**MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING – 6:00 PM
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2022**

In response to COVID-19 (coronavirus), Soquel Creek Water District's October 18, 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, *Arrived at 6:01 pm*
Rachél Lather, *Arrived at 6:05 pm*

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
Melanie Mow Schumacher, Special Projects-Communications Manager
Rebecca Rubin, Public Outreach Coordinator
Emma Western, Executive Assistant/Board Clerk

Others Present:

4 members of the public
Joe Serrano, Santa Cruz Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO)

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
Employee Organization: Management Group

At 6:01 pm, President LaHue announced that the Board will meet in closed session to discuss Items 1.1 and 1.2.

One public comment was heard.

CONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION – 6:01 pm

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION – 6:30 pm

President LaHue adjourned the closed session and returned to open session at 6:30 pm.

President LaHue 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

None removed.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Director Jaffe commented on Consent Agenda Item 4.5, recognizing that water use remains low.

Two public comments were heard.

MOTION: Director Daniels; Second: Director Jaffe; To approve Consent Agenda Items 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 4.8, 4.9, 4.10, 4.11, 4.12 and 4.13. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.
--

4.1 Approval of Minutes

4.1.1 September 20, 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 Board Planning Calendar

Action: Approved

4.4 Special Board Assignments Status Report

Action: Approved

4.5 Production Reports

Action: Approved

4.6 Management Update

Action: Approved

- 4.7 Finance Status Report – July, August, September 2022
Action: Approved
- 4.8 Public Outreach Committee Meeting Summary
Action: Approved
- 4.9 Water Resources Management and Infrastructure Committee Meeting Summary
Action: Approved
- 4.10 Deny Claim of Damage – Thomas Rose at 801 Cresta Vista Way
Action: Approved
- 4.11 Approve Transfer from Operating Contingency Reserves to Fund Country Club Well No. 2 Project, CWO 17-0582
Action: Approved
- 4.12 Water Loss Audit 2021 - Informational
Action: Approved
- 4.13 Consider Modification to the November 2022 Board Meeting Schedule
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>

One public comment was heard.

Director Christensen and Director Daniels responded to public comment.

6. REPORTS

6.1 District Counsel – Oral Report

District Counsel Nelson reported that Governor Newsom recently announced that he is rescinding California’s statewide declaration of emergency due to COVID-19 in February 2023. This may have an impact on the District’s ability to conduct remote Board Meetings. District Counsel Nelson stated that he will continue to monitor the situation as it evolves and provide guidance to the Board on their ability to meet remotely.

In response to a question posed by President LaHue, Ms. Western confirmed that she has reached out to the City of Capitola to discuss a possible return to in-person Board Meetings after February 2023.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

7.1 Conditional and Unconditional Will Serve Letters – *None*

7.2 Discussion Item Regarding the Recent Santa Cruz Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) Countywide Water Service and Sphere Review

Mr. Duncan stated that Item 7.2 provides the Board the opportunity to discuss the recent Santa Cruz Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) Countywide Water Service and Sphere Review. Directors requested that this item be agendaized at the September 20, 2022 Board Meeting.

Mr. Duncan explained that the Santa Cruz County LAFCO recently conducted a sphere of influence review for the District, and LAFCO voted unanimously to modify the District's sphere to incorporate the agriculture "islands," the Renaissance School, and the KOA Campground, which are all located at the southern end of the District.

Mr. Duncan stated that the District's sphere of influence adjustments do not result in the District providing new water service to the incorporated areas. Further LAFCO approval (via annexation or extraterritorial service agreement) would still be required before the District can provide water service to those areas. The sphere boundary adjustments only indicate that the District is the most logical provider.

Mr. Duncan noted that staff is currently working with the Renaissance School and the State Water Board to provide water service to the school. Staff anticipates that this item will be presented at a future Board Meeting for Board consideration to provide water service.

Mr. Duncan introduced Joe Serrano, Executive Officer of the Santa Cruz Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), who is in attendance and available to answer questions.

One public comment was heard.

Board discussion ensued, and staff and Mr. Serrano responded to a variety of questions. Board comments/concerns included:

- Potential fairness issues with Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency
- Future modifications to District's sphere of influence as well as jurisdictional boundary
- Water quality concerns within incorporated area (e.g., Chromium 6)
- Water supply concerns due to potential increased demand within incorporated area
- Expectation of water service due to sphere adjustments

Directors expressed support for staff to conduct further analysis exploring the water supply/demand concerns raised related to potential water service expansion to the incorporated areas within the District's sphere of influence.

Directors expressed support for revisiting this item for further discussion at a future Board Meeting. Mr. Duncan confirmed that this item will be brought back, specifically with a focus on water service to Renaissance School since that discussion is more timely.

INFORMATION ITEM ONLY.

- 7.3 Approve Board Attendance for the Santa Cruz Area Chamber of Commerce Community Leadership Visit to Monterey – November 16-17, 2022

Mr. Duncan reviewed Item 7.3, which requests approval for Board Members to attend the Santa Cruz Area Chamber of Commerce Community Leadership Visit (CLV), November 16-17, 2022. This year's CLV is in Monterey County, with specific stops focused on water, energy, and housing.

Mr. Duncan stated that Ms. Mow Schumacher is attending, and there is currently one prepaid ticket available. If no Board Members are interested, then an appropriate staff member will be selected for the prepaid ticket.

One public comment was heard.

Vice-President Christensen stated that she has attended a CLV in the past, and it was valuable and informative.

Director Lather expressed an interest in participating if she is available. Mr. Duncan confirmed that he will follow up with the CLV itinerary.

MOTION: Vice-President Christensen; Second: Director Lather; To authorize Board Member attendance in the Santa Cruz Area Chamber of Commerce Community Leadership Visit on November 16-17, 2022. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

7.4 Informational: District Selected as a Top 10 National Winner for Government Technology's Special Districts 2022 Awards Program for the Leadership Category, Innovative Technologies to Ensure Sustainable Water

Ms. Western shared that the District has been selected as a Top 10 National Winner for the Leadership Category as part of Government Technology's Special Districts 2022 Awards Program. This award recognizes the Board's leadership for using innovative technology to address our local groundwater challenges and the development and implementation of the Pure Water Soquel (PWS) Project.

Ms. Western noted that the District was first selected as an "Idea Worth Sharing" in June 2022, and from this, was eligible to be selected as a Top 10 National Winner. She reviewed other 2022 "Ideas Worth Sharing," which are showcased on Government Technology's website: govtech.com/districts/awards#leadership

One public comment was heard.

Ms. Western responded to public comment.

Directors expressed appreciation for the award, and they recognized how staff is forward thinking in their utilization of technology innovation as well.

INFORMATION ITEM ONLY.

8. ADJOURNMENT

President LaHue adjourned the meeting at 7:33 pm.

SUBMITTED:



Emma Western, Board Clerk

APPROVED:



Dr. Tom LaHue, President