In response to COVID-19 (coronavirus), the Governor’s state of emergency and subsequent executive orders, and the order by the Health Officer of the County of Santa Cruz to shelter-in-place, Soquel Creek Water District’s May 19, 2020 Board Meeting was held remotely via Zoom teleconference.

Recorded Meetings: Recorded meetings can be viewed anytime on the District’s website.

President Daniels called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 pm via Zoom Teleconference.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL
   
   **Board Members Present:**
   - Dr. Bruce Daniels, President
   - Rachél Lather, Vice-President
   - Carla Christensen
   - Dr. Bruce Jaffe
   - Dr. Thomas LaHue

   **District Counsel Present:**
   - 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
   - Greg Wilson, Water Quality Coordinator

   **Others Present:**
   - 3 members of the public

2. PUBLIC HEARING - None

3. ANNOUNCEMENT BY BOARD MEMBERS OF ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA
   
   None.

4. CONSENT AGENDA
   
   Director Christensen commented on Item 4.5, acknowledging the Department of Water Resources (DWR) draft funding recommendation for the District’s 2019 Integrated Regional Water Management grant application for the stormwater recharge project at Seascape Golf Course.

   One public comment was heard.
The Board responded to public comment.

**MOTION:** Director LaHue; Second: Vice-President Lather; To approve Consent Agenda Items 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 4.8 and 4.9. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

4.1 Approval of Minutes
   4.1.1 May 5, 2020 – Regular Meeting Minutes  
   **Action:** Approved

4.2 General Manager Purchase Order Approval  
   **Action:** Approved

4.3 April Warrants  
   **Action:** Approved

4.4 Production Reports  
   **Action:** Approved

4.5 Management Update  
   **Action:** Approved

4.6 November 3, 2020 Election - Resolution to Consolidate the Election & Notification to County Election Clerk Regarding Payment for Statement of Qualifications and Selection of Director in the Event of a Tie Vote  
   **Action:** Approved

4.7 Request to Authorize General Manager to Sign a Letter of Support for the EPA’s WaterSense Program and Performance of WaterSense Certified Products  
   **Action:** Approved

4.8 Soquel Drive Cast Iron Main Replacement Phase IV Project-Approve Preliminary Environmental Assessment & Categorical Exemption  
   **Action:** Approved

4.9 Soquel Drive Cast Iron Main Replacement Project Phase IV, Adopt Plans and Specifications, Call for Bids, CWO 16-008  
   **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 LaHue responded to public comment. He requested that staff follow up with the customer who submitted the claim and perform water pressure measurements in the specified area.

Mr. Nelson confirmed that the District has received a claim and staff will process the claim following standard procedures.

6. **REPORTS** – None
7. **ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

7.1 Conditional and Unconditional Will Serve Letters – *None*

7.2 Review and Consider Modification of Voluntary Drinking Water Quality Monitoring

Ms. Mead reviewed Item 7.2, explaining that this item is presented for the Board to evaluate and consider continuing the voluntary water quality monitoring efforts.

Ms. Mead explained that the District performs all drinking water compliance monitoring as required by state and federal regulations. In addition, some tests are completed on a schedule more frequently than required.

Ms. Mead reviewed the District’s current water quality monitoring program, including the District’s voluntary efforts, and she discussed staff’s recommendations.

One public comment was heard.

Board discussion ensued, and Ms. Mead responded to a variety of Board questions:

- The total chromium test acts as a surrogate for the chromium 6 test (all chromium in the District’s sources exists as chromium 6);
- The testing costs presented in the memo show only the direct laboratory costs and do not include staff time;
- Arsenic and total chromium are the only metals detected at levels above their respective state Detection Limits for Purposes of Reporting (DLRs) and are included in the Consumer Confidence/Water Quality Report (CCR); 14 other metals are detected below the DLR but above the laboratory reporting limits; all the metals are naturally occurring; the levels do not widely fluctuate;
- Radiologicals were detected above the DLR in three of 15 wells; the Division of Drinking Water (DDW) has provided direction on increased monitoring for the specified wells.

The Board expressed appreciation for the review of the District’s water quality monitoring efforts, emphasizing that the safety of the District’s water is most important.

Director Jaffe discussed the frequency of radiological testing. Ms. Mead stated that the radiological monitoring frequency currently ranges from triennial to novennial, and staff does not currently recommend increasing the frequency of testing. Discussion ensued, and there was consensus among the Board to direct staff to conduct annual testing of radiologicals at the sites where detections have occurred.

**MOTION:** Director Jaffe; Second: Director Christensen; To authorize staff’s recommendation with the exception of radiological testing (which will be conducted annually at sites where detections have occurred). Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

7.3 Informational – O’Neill Ranch Well Ammonia Mitigation Strategies - Phase 1 Data Review and Alternatives Analysis Memorandum

Mr. Dufour presented Corona Environmental Consulting’s O’Neill Ranch Well Ammonia Mitigation Strategies - Phase 1 Data Review and Alternatives Analysis Memorandum.

Mr. Dufour reviewed the ammonia treatment alternatives. He stated that staff is proceeding with hypochlorite management (dilution and age management) to mitigate ammonia while avoiding chlorate formation. This option appears to be a low capital cost approach to return the well to service.
He noted that this approach will require the Division of Drinking Water (DDW) granting another temporary waiver of the hypochlorite Maximum Use Level (MUL).

One public comment was heard.

Director LaHue thanked staff for presenting this report to the Board. He stated that proceeding with the hypochlorite management approach is logical. He requested an update on the results of the mitigation strategies when available.

Vice-President Lather agreed that the hypochlorite management approach is logical. She expressed support for the shade structure over the District’s hypochlorite storage tank to control temperature.

Director Jaffe agreed with the hypochlorite management approach. He expressed appreciation for the information shown in Figure 5, Hypochlorite Assessment Model, on Page 122. Ms. Mead responded to several questions regarding tank storage and management.

Director Christensen thanked staff for the report, noting that it is methodical and informative. She stated that she is looking forward to seeing the results of the mitigation strategies.

President Daniels agreed, and he suggested that a water jacket be considered to help manage temperatures.

### INFORMATION ITEM ONLY

**8. CLOSED SESSION**

8.1 Conference with Legal Counsel – Pending Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)

123-TCP

San Bernardino Superior Court Case No. CGC-16-554039, Judicial Council Coordination Proceeding No. 4435

(Soquel Creek Water District v. The Chemical Company, et al.)

8.2 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 No. 19 CV00181; CA Sixth District Court of Appeals Case No. 19AP00031

Steinbruner v. California Coastal Commission, et al., San Francisco Superior Court, Case No. Unspecified.

8.3 Public Employee Performance Evaluation

Title: General Manager

8.4 Conference with Labor Negotiators

Agency designated representatives: Bruce Daniels, Josh Nelson

Unrepresented employee: General Manager

At 7:05 pm, President Daniels announced that the Board will meet in closed session to discuss Items 8.1, 8.2, 8.3 and 8.4.

One public comment was heard prior to the start of closed session.
CONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION – 7:08 pm

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION – 8:11 pm

President Daniels adjourned the closed session and returned to open session at 8:11 pm.

Ms. Rubin reported that the Board discussed Items 8.1, 8.2, 8.3 and 8.4 in closed session. No action was taken.

9. ADJOURNMENT

President Daniels adjourned the meeting at 8:11 pm.

SUBMITTED:        APPROVED:

Emma Olin, Board Clerk        Dr. Bruce Daniels, President