



**MEETING MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING – 6:00 PM  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2021**

In response to COVID-19 (coronavirus), Soquel Creek Water District's September 7, 2021 Board Meeting was held remotely via Zoom.

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

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

**Others Present:**

Two members of the public

**1. CLOSED SESSION**

1.1 Conference with Labor Negotiators

Agency designated representative: Traci Hart / Ron Duncan  
Employee organization: Mid-Management and Management Employee Groups

1.2 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 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 No. Pending  
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

At 6:00 pm, President Lather announced that the Board will meet in closed session to discuss Items 1.1 and 1.2.

**CONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION – 6:01 pm**

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION – 7:10 pm**

President Lather adjourned the closed session and returned to open session at 7:10 pm.

President Lather reported that the Board discussed Items 1.1 and 1.2, in closed session. She stated that the Board approved tentative agreements with the Management and Mid-Management Groups by unanimous votes. These agreements will be ratified at a future open session. In addition, the tentative agreement with the Management Group includes adding Juneteenth as a holiday consistent with recent federal actions. The Board will agenda an item for a future meeting to consider adding Juneteenth as an official District-wide holiday. There was no reportable action was taken on Item 1.2.

2. **PUBLIC HEARING** – *None*

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

Directors Christensen requested that Item 4.4 be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

President Lather removed Consent Agenda Item 4.4.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

One public comment was heard.

MOTION: Vice-President LaHue; Second: Director Christensen; To approve Consent Agenda Items 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7 and 4.8. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.
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4.1 Approval of Minutes – *None*

4.2 Board Planning Calendar  
**Action: Approved**

4.3 Special Board Assignments Status Report  
**Action: Approved**

4.4 Approve Allocation from Operating Contingency Reserves and Ratify Emergency Purchase for T. Hopkins Well Disinfection Repairs  
**Action: Removed from Consent; Discussed at the end of Administrative Business**

4.5 Approval of the General Manager Nomination and Potential Selection on the WateReuse California Board of Trustees  
**Action: Approved**

4.6 Authorize Allocation from Operating Contingency Reserve for Purchase of Sodium Hypochlorite Transport Truck  
**Action: Approved**

- 4.7 Cancel the September 21, 2021, Board Meeting  
**Action: Approved**

- 4.8 Approve District Directed Change Order for Rosedale Ave. Hwy 1 Crossing and Park Ave. Main Transmission Improvements, Purchase Order Authorization, CWOs 22-0031 & 22-0021  
**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.

6. **REPORTS** – *None*

7. **ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

- 7.1 Conditional and Unconditional Will Serve Letters – *None*

- 7.2 Approve Budget Revisions for Efforts Related to Pure Water Soquel Pertaining to Design-Build Services by Black and Veatch Construction Inc.

Ms. Mow Schumacher stated that Item 7.2 is presented for the Board to consider approving a contract amendment in the amount not-to-exceed \$334,114, for additional Black and Veatch Construction Inc. (BVCI) design-build services to support the Pure Water Soquel (PWS) Project. Budget for this contract amendment is included in the District's Fiscal Year 2021/22 Budget.

One public comment was heard.

MOTION: Director Daniels; Second: Vice-President LaHue; To approve the budget and related work for design-build services for the treatment facilities project with BVCI in the amount not-to-exceed \$334,114. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA - ITEMS REMOVED FOR DISCUSSION**

- 4.4 Approve Allocation from Operating Contingency Reserves and Ratify Emergency Purchase for T. Hopkins Well Disinfection Repairs

One public comment was heard.

In response to a question posed by Director Christensen, Ms. Mead confirmed that six of its sixteen active wells offline for various reasons. Ms. Mead provided an update on the District's wells and explained the need to initiate treatment/disinfection work at T. Hopkins Well.

MOTION: Director Daniels; Second: Director Christensen; To authorize the allocation of \$112,000 from Operating Contingency Reserves to fund the T. Hopkins Well Treatment and Disinfection Project, CWO 21-5081. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

MOTION: Director Daniels; Second: Director Christensen; To ratify the General Manager's decision to authorize Maggiora Bros.' procurement of chemicals for \$43,572 on an emergency basis for the T. Hopkins Well Treatment and Disinfection Project, CWO 21-5081. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

President Lather adjourned the meeting at 7:37 pm.

SUBMITTED:



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Emma Olin, Board Clerk

APPROVED:



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Rachél Lather, President