



**MEETING MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING – 6:00 PM  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2021**

In response to COVID-19 (coronavirus), Soquel Creek Water District's October 19, 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 – *Arrived at 6:20 pm*  
Dr. Bruce Daniels  
Carla Christensen  
Dr. Bruce Jaffe

**District Counsel**

Anne Branham, Counsel, Best Best and Krieger

**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:**

4 members of the public

**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 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 6:02 pm, President Lather announced that the Board will meet in closed session to discuss Item 1.1.

**CONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION – 6:02 pm**

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION – 6:20 pm**

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

President Lather reported that the Board discussed Item 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**

Two public comments were heard.

MOTION: Director Jaffe; Second: Director Christensen; 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 and 4.11. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.
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4.1 Approval of Minutes

4.1.1 September 28, 2021 – Special 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 Finance Status Report

***Action: Approved***

4.4 Production Reports

***Action: Approved***

4.5 Management Update

***Action: Approved***

4.6 Public Outreach Committee Meeting Summary

***Action: Approved***

4.7 Water Resources Management and Infrastructure Committee Meeting Summary

***Action: Approved***

- 4.8 Approve Modifications to the CSDA Bylaws and Authorize the General Manager to Cast the District's Vote  
**Action: Approved**
- 4.9 Nominations for Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Committees for the 2022-2023 Term  
**Action: Approved**
- 4.10 Cast Votes for the National Water Reuse Association Board of Directors  
**Action: Approved**
- 4.11 Approve Attendance at the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Fall Conference  
**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.

Mr. Duncan responded to public comment.

Director Jaffe responded to public comment.

Counsel Branham responded to public comment.

6. **REPORTS** – *Item Removed from the Agenda*

7. **ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

7.1 Conditional and Unconditional Will Serve Letters – *None*

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

Ms. Abbey reviewed Item 7.2, stating that this item is presented to provide the Board a progress update on the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) leak detection capabilities and estimated water savings from January 1 to August 31, 2021.

One public comment was heard.

Ms. Flock noted that staff has received positive feedback from customers regarding WaterSmart.

Director Daniels recognized that one way WaterSmart's algorithm detects a leak is if water use is greater than 3 gallons per hour (gph). Director Daniels commented that he would be in favor of an algorithm reporting a leak if water use is greater than 1 gph.

Vice-President LaHue thanked staff for the update and expressed the value of WaterSmart for District customers.

Director Jaffe stated that he is supportive of continuing to receive a report on the AMI leak detection.

Director Christensen recognized the progress made with 50% of eligible accounts registered for WaterSmart portal. She thanked staff for the informative report.

President Lather expressed support for WaterSmart and questioned if leak notifications can occur before 24-hours.

Staff responded to a variety of Board questions:

- Staff is working to refine process for leak alerting for dedicated irrigation, multi-family and commercial accounts.
- WaterSmart does not currently have an app; however, customers are alerted by text and phone call.
- WaterSmart technology is not capable of providing instantaneous notifications.

MOTION: Director Jaffe; Second: Director Christensen; To direct staff to provide the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Leak Detection Report annually; with the reporting period being the water year (October 1 – September 30). Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

### 7.3 District Website Agenda Center Presentation – Informational (No Memo, Presentation Only)

Ms. Olin reviewed the District’s Agenda Center on the website. She emphasized that the Agenda Center complies with Brown Act and accessibility requirements.

One public comment was heard.

In response to a question posed by Director Christensen, Ms. Olin confirmed that the District accepts public comment through the “raise hand” feature on Zoom (in addition to the “Request to Speak Form”). Public members who join the meeting by phone may “raise their hand,” by dialing \*9.

### INFORMATION ITEM ONLY.

### 7.4 Consideration of District Observance of Federal Holiday – Juneteenth (June 19th)

Ms. Hart stated that Item 7.4 is presented for the Board to consider adopting Resolution No. 21-27, to formally observe Juneteenth (June 19<sup>th</sup>) as a District Holiday. If approved, then staff will meet with respective employee groups to discuss the impacts and effects.

MOTION: Director Daniels; Second: Director Jaffe; To adopt Resolution No. 21-27, formally observing Juneteenth as a District Holiday, to be observed annually on June 19<sup>th</sup>. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

### 7.5 Maplethorpe Ln. Main Break Briefing, CWO 22-5081

Mr. Dufour discussed the Maplethorpe Ln. to Victory Ln. break and the District’s response efforts in October 2021. Ms. Mead emphasized and expressed appreciation for the teamwork of District staff needed in this response.

Mr. Duncan recognized how the entire organization connected and quickly responded.

One public comment was heard.

Directors thanked staff for their efforts and recognized the teamwork, communication, resourcefulness, and creativity that went into the response.

INFORMATION ITEM ONLY.

7.6 Soquel Creek Water District 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (1961-2021)

Ms. Hart stated that the purpose of this item is for the Board to consider adoption of Resolution 21-28, which honors and recognizes the District's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Mr. Duncan thanked the Board for their vision and guidance.

Directors expressed gratitude for the District over the years.

MOTION: Director Daniels; Second: Director Jaffe; To adopt honorary Resolution No. 21-28, in recognition of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Soquel Creek Water District . Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

President Lather adjourned the meeting at 7:49 pm.

SUBMITTED:



Emma Olin, Board Clerk

APPROVED:



Rachél Lather, President