



**MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING – 6:00 PM
TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2022**

In response to COVID-19 (coronavirus), Soquel Creek Water District's April 19, 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 6:01 pm via Zoom.

0. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Board Members Present:

Dr. Thomas LaHue, President
Carla Christensen, Vice-President
Dr. Bruce Daniels. *Absent*
Dr. Bruce Jaffe
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
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
Greg Wilson, Water Quality Coordinator

Others Present:

1 member of the public
Cameron Tana, Montgomery & Associates (M&A)

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

- 1.2 Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation
Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) or (3) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9: 1 case

At 6:01 pm, President LaHue 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 – 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 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

MOTION: Vice-President Christensen; Second: Director Lather; 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, 4.13, 4.14, 4.15, 4.16, 4.17, and 4.18. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote. Director Daniels absent.

4.1 Approval of Minutes

4.1.1 February 15, 2022 – Regular Meeting Minutes

4.1.2 March 15, 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
Action: Approved
 - 4.8 Public Outreach Committee Meeting Summary
Action: Approved
 - 4.9 Water Resources Management & Infrastructure Committee Meeting Summary
Action: Approved
 - 4.10 Informational - Annual System Water Production Status Report, 2021
Action: Approved
 - 4.11 District Site Aesthetics
Action: Approved
 - 4.12 Pure Water Soquel Seawater Intrusion and Prevention (SWIP) Well Equipping Project, CWO 20-3000, Adopt Plans and Specifications, Call for Bids and Adopt Findings of Project Substantially Complex
Action: Approved
 - 4.13 Authorize Allocation from Operating Contingency Reserves (OCR) for Emergency Repairs to San Andreas Well and Ratify the General Manager's Decision to Depart from Purchasing Policy
Action: Approved
 - 4.14 Approve Board Member Attendance at the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Spring Conference
Action: Approved
 - 4.15 Reinstate the May 3, 2022 Board Meeting and Conduct from 5:00-7:00 pm
Action: Approved
 - 4.16 Draft Letter Response to LAFCO Regarding Extraterritorial Service Agreement
Action: Approved
- President LaHue noted a typo (the date should be 2024 – not 2004).
- 4.17 Approve State Legislative Assistance/Water Resource Related Management Assistance with The Gualco Group
Action: Approved
 - 4.18 Adopt Resolution No. 22-10, Opposition to Initiative #21-0042A1 to Limit Ability of Voters and State and Local Governments to Raise Revenues for Governmental Services
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>

Director Lather stated that she participated in the California Water Environment Association (CWEA) annual conference, and she attended a presentation by Melanie Mow Schumacher on the Pure Water Soquel (PWS) Project. She stated that she is proud of the District and the PWS Project.

President LaHue expressed appreciation for the recent rainfall.

6. **REPORTS**

6.1 District Counsel – Oral Report

District Counsel Nelson provided an update on the following:

- The change in the federal mask mandate does not affect California’s declaration of emergency, which allows the Board to meet virtually due to COVID-19.

7. **ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

7.1 Conditional and Unconditional Will Serve Letters – *None*

7.2 Strategic Plan Update – Consider Approval of Revisions to the District’s Mission Statement, Values, and Primary Organizational Goals and Provide Direction for Updating the District’s Strategies to Meet Our Primary Goals

Mr. Duncan explained that this item is presented for the Board to consider approving revisions to the District’s Mission Statement, Values, and Primary Organizational Goals, as part of the Strategic Plan Update. The proposed revisions are based on the information collected from an environmental scan, external and internal input, and the Board’s feedback provided at the April 2, 2022 Board Workshop. Mr. Duncan stated that although updating the District’s Strategies to Meet Our Primary Goals is recognized as a staff effort, Board direction and input on the proposed approach is requested.

Board discussion ensued. There was consensus among the Board to approve the proposed revisions, with the following minor modifications:

- Values – Community, Relationships & Collaboration: Modify question to be, “Does the decision/action promote collaboration and enhance relationships with others?”
- Goals – Water Resource Management and Sustainability: Replace “holistic” with “long-term.”
- Goals – Engagement and Trust: Remove language “excellent.”

The Board directed staff to proceed with updating the District’s Strategies to Meet Our Primary Goals at the staff-level and present the revisions for review at a future Board Meeting.

MOTION: Director Jaffe; Second: Director Lather; To approve the proposed revisions, with the minor modifications identified, to the District’s Mission Statement, Values, and Primary Goals. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote. Director Daniels absent.
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7.3 Presentation on the Santa Cruz Mid-County Basin Water Year 2021 Annual Report and 2022-2023 Water Shortage Stage Evaluation and Declaration

Ms. Abbey reviewed the current state of the curtailment trigger conditions (i.e. rainfall totals and groundwater conditions). She requested that the Board consider declaring a water shortage stage (that will be effective for the for the remainder of 2022 and the beginning of 2023), based on the information presented.

Ms. Abbey introduced the District's hydrogeology consultant, Mr. Cameron Tana of Montgomery & Associates (M&A), who presented the Santa Cruz Mid-County (SCMC) Basin Water Year 2021 Annual Report. Mr. Tana's presentation provides supporting information for this item on groundwater conditions and is available on the District's website:
<https://www.soquelcreekwater.org/AgendaCenter>

Ms. Abbey stated that the rainfall and groundwater-based triggers indicate a Stage 3 water shortage emergency (with an associated 25% curtailment target). Staff recommends the Board continue under the current Stage 3 Declaration (with no emergency rates).

Board discussion ensued, and staff and Mr. Tana responded to a variety of questions.

Directors expressed support for staff's recommendation.

MOTION: Vice-President Christensen; Second: Director Lather; To continue the Stage 3 Water Shortage Emergency with no Emergency Rates under Resolution 19-08. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote. Director Daniels absent.

7.4 2021 Consumer Confidence/Water Quality Report

Ms. Mead introduced Mr. Wilson, the District's Water Quality Program Coordinator.

Mr. Wilson reviewed the draft 2021 Consumer Confidence/Water Quality Report. He reported that the District's water met all established drinking water health standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB).

In response to a question posed by Director Jaffe, Mr. Wilson confirmed that the language, "Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits," for the typical sources of Chromium is standard language required by the State.

Vice-President Christensen noted that the trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids are lower in 2021 than in 2020. Mr. Wilson confirmed that this decrease is likely because the water purchase/transfer with the City of Santa Cruz was not active.

Directors thanked Mr. Wilson for the informative report.

7.5 Retirement Resolution In Appreciation of Christine Mead – 15 Years of Service to the District

Ms. Hart stated that Christine Mead, Operations and Maintenance Manager, will retire at the end of April after 15 years of service to the District.

President LaHue read aloud Resolution 22-11, honoring Christine Mead.

Directors expressed appreciation for Ms. Mead's hard work and dedication.

MOTION: Vice-President Christensen; Second: Director Jaffe; To adopt Resolution No. 22-11 in appreciation of Christine Mead, Operations and Maintenance Manager. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote. Director Daniels absent.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

President LaHue adjourned the meeting at 7:58 pm.

SUBMITTED:



Emma Olin, Board Clerk

APPROVED:



Dr. Tom LaHue, President