



**MEETING MINUTES
BUDGET WORKSHOP 5:00 – 6:00 PM
CLOSED SESSION 6:10 – 6:40 PM
AGENDA 6:50 PM
TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2021**

In response to COVID-19 (coronavirus), Soquel Creek Water District's May 4, 2021 Board Meeting was held remotely via Zoom.

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

00. FISCAL YEAR 2021/22 BUDGET WORKSHOP

The District's Fiscal Year 2021/22 Budget Workshop was held prior to the start of the regular meeting from 5:00 – 6:00 pm.

Director Jaffe joined the workshop at 5:15 pm.

0. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

President Lather called the regular meeting to order at 6:14 pm via Zoom.

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
Alyssa Abbey, Staff Analyst

Others Present:

5 members of the public
Cameron Tana, Montgomery & Associates
Joe Serrano, 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. Soquel Creek Water District et al., Santa Cruz County Superior Court Case Nos. 19AP00031 19AP00030 19CV00181; CA Sixth District Court of Appeals Case No. H048738
Steinbruner vs. California Coastal Commission, et al., San Francisco County Superior Court Case No. CPF- 20517119
Steinbruner vs. Soquel Creek Water District et al., Santa Cruz County Superior Court Case No. 21CV00537

1.2 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.)

1.3 Conference with Labor Negotiators
Agency designated representatives: Ron Duncan, Traci Hart
Employee organization: Management Employee Group

At 6:14 pm, President Lather announced that the Board will meet in closed session to discuss Items 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3.

CONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION – 6:14 pm

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION – 6:58 pm

President Lather adjourned the closed session and returned to open session at 6:58 pm.

President Lather reported that the Board discussed Items 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3, 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

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| MOTION: Vice-President LaHue; Second: Director Daniels; To approve Consent Agenda Items 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote. |
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4.1 Approval of Minutes
4.1.1 April 20, 2021 – Regular Meeting Minutes
Action: Approved

4.2 Board Planning Calendar
Action: Approved

- 4.3 Special Board Assignments Status Report
Action: Approved
- 4.4 Finance and Administrative Services Committee Meeting Summary
Action: Approved
- 4.5 District Staffing and Reorganization – Increase FTE for Public Outreach Coordinator
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>

Vice-President LaHue shared that he, along with President Lather and District staff, met with Congressman Panetta at the Pure Water Soquel Monterey Avenue recharge well site. He stated that the visit went well and was productive.

Vice-President LaHue shared a positive interaction with a neighbor of the Monterey Avenue recharge well site. He stated that the neighbor was well informed about the Pure Water Soquel Project, which shows that the District’s outreach efforts are reaching the community.

6. REPORTS – None

7. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

- 7.1 Conditional and Unconditional Will Serve Letters – None
- 7.2 Presentation of the Santa Cruz Mid-County Basin Water Year 2020 Annual Report

Mr. Duncan introduced the District’s hydrogeology consultant, Mr. Cameron Tana of Montgomery & Associates (M&A), who presented the Santa Cruz Mid-County Basin Water Year 2020 Annual Report (the second annual report for the Basin’s Groundwater Sustainability Plan). Mr. Tana’s presentation is available on the District’s website:
<https://www.soquelcreekwater.org/AgendaCenter>

Mr. Tana responded to several Board questions.

Directors expressed appreciation for the informative report. Mr. Duncan confirmed that he will agendize a presentation of this report annually.

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| INFORMATION ONLY |
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- 7.3 Review of Proposed Groundwater-Based Trigger Conditions in Draft Water Shortage Contingency Plan

Ms. Flock stated that Item 7.3 is presented to review the justification for the groundwater-based curtailment triggers proposed in the Draft Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP), a component of the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP), as requested by the Board at the April 20, 2021 Board Meeting.

Ms. Flock introduced the District's hydrogeology consultant, Mr. Cameron Tana of Montgomery & Associates (M&A), who gave a presentation on the proposed groundwater trigger conditions for the WSCP. Mr. Tana's presentation is available on the District's website:

<https://www.soquelcreekwater.org/AgendaCenter>

Board discussion ensued regarding the representative monitoring points (RMPs) for seawater intrusion. Directors questioned the number used (20 RMPs) for the "super-critical" shortage stage.

There was consensus among the Board to take no action at this time and move forward with the proposed groundwater trigger conditions for the WSCP. Directors recognized that the Pure Water Soquel Project may have ramifications on groundwater levels, and there may be a need to re-evaluate the RMPs and trigger conditions once the Project is online.

Directors thanked staff and Mr. Tana for the thorough and informative presentation.

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| NO ACTION TAKEN |
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7.4 LAFCO Annexation and Service Boundary Expansion and Concurrent Sphere of Influence Amendment

Mr. Dufour reviewed Item 7.4, explaining that the purpose of this memo is to provide information and the opportunity for the Board to discuss and direct staff regarding a possible annexation and service boundary expansion of the identified area in La Selva Beach.

Mr. Dufour explained that the District currently serves many parcels in the La Selva Beach area through extra territorial service agreements (ESAs), which allow the District to provide water service to parcels outside jurisdictional limits. The proposed annexation includes the existing ESAs as well as some of the logical surrounding parcels to make a more congruent District boundary. He stated that the Local Agency Formation Commission of Santa Cruz County (LAFCO) views ESAs as temporary; therefore, LAFCO is supportive of the proposed annexation and service boundary expansion.

Mr. Dufour noted that Joe Serrano, the Executive Officer of LAFCO, is available to answer any questions.

One public comment was heard.

Board discussion ensued, and staff and Mr. Serrano responded to a variety of questions. Discussion topics included:

- Water quality/treatment considerations (e.g., Chromium 6)
- County-designated land use in the La Selva Beach area
- Existing jurisdiction of the area (e.g., Pajaro Valley Water Management)
- LAFCO application process and required fees

Vice-President LaHue stated he is supportive of the proposed annexation, noting that the proposed jurisdiction modification would expand voting rights to those who already receive District water service through ESAs. He added that annexation will create a more efficient LAFCO process and a more logical boundary.

President Lather stated that she is currently the Chair of LAFCO, and she believes that annexation of the proposed area is efficient and cost effective. She explained that annexation of these parcels will streamline the water service process for both agencies and customers.

Director Daniels stated that he is not supportive of the proposed annexation. He discussed the water quality/treatment considerations, and associated costs, which he believes would burden the District's existing customers.

Director Christensen stated that she believes annexation of this area will overall benefit the District customers and the community; however, she expressed concern regarding increased water production in the area.

Director Jaffe recognized that there are complexities regarding this proposal; however, he stated that he believes that annexation will be the way of the future.

Mr. Dufour confirmed that staff is only seeking direction as to whether to return to the Board with a subsequent resolution of application requesting that LAFCO initiate proceedings for the annexation and service boundary expansion and concurrent sphere of influence amendment for the subject region.

MOTION: Vice-President LaHue; Second: Director Christensen; To direct staff to return with a subsequent resolution of application requesting the Local Agency Formation Commission of Santa Cruz County (LAFCO) to initiate proceedings for the annexation and service boundary expansion and concurrent sphere of influence amendment for the subject region (all proposed areas) at a future Board Meeting. Motion passed (4:1) by roll call vote. Director Daniels voted no.

8. ADJOURNMENT

President Lather adjourned the meeting at 8:36 pm.

SUBMITTED:



Emma Olin, Board Clerk

APPROVED:



Rachél Lather, President