



**MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023**

**AGENDA 6:00 PM  
CLOSED SESSION**

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

**0. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

President Christensen called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm at the Capitola City Council Chambers.

**Board Members Present:**

Carla Christensen, President  
Dr. Bruce Jaffe, Vice-President  
Dr. Bruce Daniels, Director  
Dr. Thomas LaHue, Director  
Rachél Lather, Director

**District Counsel**

Joshua Nelson, District Counsel

**Staff Members Present:**

Ron Duncan, General Manager  
Taj Dufour, Engineering Manager  
Traci Hart, Human Resources Manager  
Melanie Mow Schumacher, Special Projects-Communications Manager / Assistant General Manager  
Emma Western, Executive Assistant/Board Clerk

**Others Present:**

1 member of the public

**2. PUBLIC HEARING – None**

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

None removed.

**4. CONSENT AGENDA**

MOTION: Director LaHue; Second: Director Lather; To approve Consent Agenda Items 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6 and 4.7. Motion passed unanimously.

4.1 Approval of Minutes – None

4.2 Production Report  
**Action: Approved**

4.3 Finance Status Report  
**Action: Approved**

4.4 Management Update  
**Action: Approved**

Director LaHue requested that changes to the management report be denoted.

4.5 Deny Claim of Damage – Joseph Wright, 39 Anita Avenue, Watsonville, CA 95076  
**Action: Approved**

4.6 Soquel Dr Buffered Bike Lane Project – SqCWD Minor Infrastructure Adjustments CWO 22-0211  
**Action: Approved**

4.7 Approve Transfer from Operating Contingency Reserves to Fund Design Services for the Cunnison Lane Well Project, CWO 23-0091  
**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>

**6. REPORTS**

6.1 District Counsel – Oral Report

General Counsel Nelson provided an update on statewide water quality regulatory requirements. He stated that the Department of Water Resources (DWR) is drafting its Community Water Policy Workbook, which he will continue to monitor and update the Board on as needed.

**7. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

7.1 Conditional and Unconditional Will Serve Letters – *None*

7.2 Resolution Honoring Public Service Recognition Week, May 7-13, 2023

Ms. Hart read aloud Resolution 23-07, honoring Public Service Recognition Week.

MOTION: Director LaHue; Second: President Christensen; To adopt Resolution No. 23-07, honoring Public Service Recognition Week, May 7-13, 2023. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.
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**8. CLOSED SESSION**

8.1 Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Section §54956.9(d)(1)  
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 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; CA Sixth District Court of Appeals Case No. H050093

- 8.2 Conference With Labor Negotiators  
Agency designated representative(s): Ron Duncan, Traci Hart, Melanie Mow Schumacher, Leslie Strohm  
Employee Organization: Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
- 8.3 Closed Session Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54597(b)  
Personnel Session to Evaluate Performance of General Manager
- 8.4 Conference With Labor Negotiators  
Agency designated representative(s): Carla Christensen  
Unrepresented Employee: General Manager
- 8.5 Conference With Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation  
Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Paragraph (2) of Subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9: 1 Case (Claim of Bernt Barbera)

At 6:12 pm, President Christensen announced that the Board will return to closed session to discuss Items 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4 and 8.5.

**CONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION – 6:12 pm**

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION – 7:02 pm**

President Christensen adjourned the closed session and returned to open session at 7:02 pm.

President Christensen reported that the Board discussed Items 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4 and 8.5 in closed session. No reportable action was taken.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

President Christensen adjourned the meeting at 7:02 pm.

SUBMITTED:



Emma Western, Board Clerk

APPROVED:



Carla Christensen, President