



**MEETING MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING – 6:00 PM  
TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2022**

In response to COVID-19 (coronavirus), Soquel Creek Water District's May 17, 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 6:00 pm via Zoom.

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

**Board Members Present:**

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

**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  
Nate Gillespie, Operations & Maintenance Manager  
Melanie Mow Schumacher, Special Projects-Communications Manager  
Emma Olin, Executive Assistant/Board Clerk  
Rebecca Rubin, Public Outreach Coordinator

**Others Present:**

2 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 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
- 1.3 Public Employee Performance Evaluation  
Title: General Manager
- 1.4 Conference With Labor Negotiators  
Agency designated representatives: President LaHue, Josh Nelson  
Unrepresented employee: General Manager

At 6:00 pm, President LaHue announced that the Board will meet in closed session to discuss Items 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4.

**CONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION – 6:00 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, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4, 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**

Director Daniels stated that he will abstain from voting on Consent Item 4.1.1 and 4.1.2, as he did not attend the April 2, 2022 nor the April 19, 2022 Board Meetings.

MOTION: Director Daniels; Second: Vice-President 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. Director Daniels abstained from 4.1.1 and 4.1.2. Director Lather absent.

- 4.1 Approval of Minutes
  - 4.1.1 April 2, 2022 – Meeting Minutes
  - 4.1.2 April 19, 2022 – Meeting Minutes
  - 4.1.3 May 3, 2022 – 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**

Vice-President Christensen highlighted that the District received nearly \$100,000 in one-time funds from the State to support customers whose past due balances have increased during the pandemic.

Vice-President Christensen noted that the District has applied to the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) which is expected to launch in June 2022 to support low-income customers.

4.5 Management Update  
**Action: Approved**

Vice-President Christensen emphasized that 84% of Santa Cruz customers support uses of purified recycled water for potable and non-potable purposes.

4.6 Finance Status Report  
**Action: Approved**

4.7 Finance and Administrative Services Committee Meeting Summary  
**Action: Approved**

4.8 Request to Approve Water Education Promotion Mini Grant for 2022 Master Gardener Tour  
**Action: Approved**

4.9 Approve Board Attendance at the CSDA Annual Conference, August 22-25, 2022, in Palm Desert, CA, and the WateReuse Conference, September 11-13, 2022, in San Francisco, CA  
**Action: Approved**

4.10 November 8, 2022 Election - Resolution to Consolidate the Election & Notification to County Election Clerk Regarding Payment for Statement of Qualifications and Selection of Director in the Event of a Tie Vote  
**Action: Approved**

4.11 Production Reports  
**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 Jaffe stated that there has been recent coverage at the State level regarding water conservation, noting that he believes the publicity will likely result in water consumption reductions.

Mr. Duncan introduced Nate Gillespie, the District's new Operations and Maintenance Manager. The Board welcomed Mr. Gillespie.

Vice-President Christensen cited a recent article, "The Colorado River Is In Crisis, And It's Getting Worse Every Day," which emphasizes the importance of water as a precious resource.

**6. REPORTS**

General Counsel Nelson provided an update:

- Assembly Bill (AB) 361: California's statewide emergency (which permits virtual public meetings) remains current.
- Pending Legislation: Two bills have been proposed regarding the Brown Act and remote public meetings. He will continue to monitor their status.

**7. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

7.1 Conditional and Unconditional Will Serve Letters

7.1.1 Conditional Will Serve for Single Family Home at "0" Monroe Ave., Aptos. APN: 041-232-38 (Deshmukh/Chandraker)

Mr. Dufour stated that this item presents one conditional will serve application for Board consideration. This is a single family residence on a one acre parcel.

Vice-President Christensen asked if the applicants are considering an easement to reduce watered landscape. Mr. Dufour stated that the applicants are not at this stage yet, but that this would be presented in the unconditional will serve (which will return to the Board in the future).

MOTION: Vice-President Christensen; Second: President LaHue; To approve a conditional will serve letter for the single family residence at "0" Monroe Ave. , Aptos, APN 041-232-38. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote. Director Lather absent.

7.2 Consider Adoption of Ordinance No. 22-02 Rescinding and thus Replacing Prior Ordinance (No. 16-03) Establishing Water Conservation in Landscaping Regulations

Ms. Flock stated that item proposes an amendment to Ordinance No. 16-03 Establishing Water Conservation in Landscaping Regulations and requests the Board consider adoption of Ordinance No. 22-02 to replace the revised Ordinance No. 16-03. This amendment is being proposed to eliminate the cost of dedicated landscape meter installation and long-term monthly service charges in new small commercial landscapes. Staff believes that a dedicated irrigation meter is not necessary in these small landscapes to achieve efficient water management.

In response to a question posed by Director Jaffe, Ms. Flock stated that staff proposes the 500 square feet threshold because it parallels the State ordinance.

Vice-President Christensen commended staff for the proactive review of its ordinances.

MOTION: Director Daniels; Second: Vice-President Christensen; To adopt Ordinance No. 22-02 repealing and replacing Ordinance No. 16-03 without any additional amendments. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote. Director Lather absent.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

President LaHue adjourned the meeting at 6:45 pm.

SUBMITTED:



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Emma Olin, Board Clerk

APPROVED:



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Dr. Tom LaHue, President