



**MEETING MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING – 6:00 PM  
TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2022**

In response to COVID-19 (coronavirus), Soquel Creek Water District’s June 7, 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, *Arrived at 6:05 pm*

**District Counsel**

Anne Branham, Counsel, Best, Best & 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  
Melanie Mow Schumacher, Special Projects-Communications Manager  
Emma Olin, Executive Assistant/Board Clerk  
Rebecca Rubin, Public Outreach Coordinator

**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 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

At 6:01 pm, President LaHue announced that the Board will meet in closed session to discuss Item 1.1.

**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.

Counsel Branham reported that the Board discussed Item 1.1 in closed session. The Board provided direction to defend the appeal in Santa Cruz County Superior Court Case No. 21CV02699.

2. **PUBLIC HEARING** – *None*

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

None removed.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

MOTION: Director Daniels; Second: Director Lather; To approve Consent Agenda Items 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 4.8 and 4.9. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.
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4.1 Approval of Minutes

4.1.3 May 17, 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**

4.5 Small Claims Report for May 2021

**Action: Approved**

4.6 Soquel Drive Phase IV Cast Iron Main Replacement Project, CWO 16-008, Accept Project as Complete, File Notice of Completion, and Approve Purchase Order for County to Complete Slurry Seal Restoration on Behalf of the District

**Action: Approved**

4.7 Approval of Scopes of Work to Support Construction of the Country Club Replacement Well No. 2 Project

**Action: Approved**

4.8 Cliff Dr. and Bayview Dr. Main Replacement Project, CWO 21-0131, Accept Project as Complete, File Notice of Completion

**Action: Approved**

- 4.9 Construction, Development, and Testing of Country Club No. 2 Well Project CWO 17-0582  
**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** – *None*

7. **ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

- 7.1 Conditional and Unconditional Will Serve Letters – *None*

- 7.2 Presentation of Pure Water Soquel Video Contest Awards and Premiere of Winning Videos

Ms. Rubin stated that staff hosted a video contest for local high schoolers. The contest theme focused on Pure Water Soquel and the water challenges in the Mid-County.

Two students were selected as the video contest winners. The winners were selected for their level of visual, sound, messaging and editing quality. The winning videos were presented:

1. *We Can't Drink Sea Water* by Noah Skrovan from Aptos High School
2. *Safe Water For Everyone* by Samantha Muñoz from Aptos High School

Directors expressed appreciation for the videos.

One public comment was heard.

Ms. Rubin confirmed that the winning videos will be shared via the following:

- District's social media
- District's website: <https://www.soquelcreekwater.org/635/2022-Pure-Water-Soquel---High-School-Vid>
- The Annual California WaterReuse Conference in San Francisco in September 2022 (*tentative*)

Ms. Mow Schumacher thanked students for participating and recognized their hard work and creativity.

- 7.3 Request Board Direction Regarding Responses to the Santa Cruz County Civil Grand Jury Report

Mr. Duncan stated that this item requests direction from the Board to guide responding to the 2021-2022 Santa Cruz County Civil Grand Jury report titled, "*Our Water Account Is Overdrawn—Beyond Conservation: Achieving Drought Resilience*," published on May 24, 2022.

As part of the overall process, the District Board is required to respond within 90 days. Thus, the deadline to respond is August 22, 2022. The responses must be approved by the Board in a regular public meeting.

Directors recognized the importance in responding and shared their availability. There was consensus to nominate Vice-President Christensen and Director Daniels to serve on an ad hoc committee with staff to formulate draft responses to the Grand Jury's questions.

MOTION: Director Lather; Second: Director Jaffe; To nominate Vice-President Christensen and Director Daniels to serve on an Ad Hoc Committee with staff to formulate draft responses to the Grand Jury's questions shown in Attachment 1; and direct the Ad Hoc Committee to present the draft responses to the full Board for approval at a future regular Board Meeting. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**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