



**MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING – 6:00 PM
TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 2021**

In response to COVID-19 (coronavirus), Soquel Creek Water District's June 15, 2021 Board Meeting was held remotely via Zoom.

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

Vice-President LaHue called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm via Zoom.

0. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Board Members Present:

Rachél Lather, President – *Absent*
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:

1 member 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
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.)

At 6:01 pm, Vice-President LaHue announced that the Board will meet in closed session to discuss Items 1.1 and 1.2.

One public comment was heard prior to the start of closed session.

CONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION – 6:03 pm

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION – 6:40 pm

Vice-President LaHue adjourned the closed session and returned to open session at 6:40 pm.

District Counsel Nelson reported that the Board discussed Items 1.1 and 1.2 in closed session. No reportable action was taken. [This report occurred during Item 6.1]

2. **PUBLIC HEARING** – *None*

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

None removed.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

One public comment was heard.

Ms. Olin responded to public comment.

Mr. Duncan noted that the Seawater Intrusion Control Fund (SWIC) loan rate should be 1.1% (the Management Update, Consent Item 4.3, incorrectly states 0.85%).

MOTION: Director Jaffe; Second: Director Daniels; To approve Consent Agenda Items 4.1, 4.2, and 4.3. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote. President Lather absent.

- 4.1 Approval of Minutes
4.1.1 June 1, 2021 – Regular Meeting Minutes
Action: Approved

- 4.2 Production Reports
Action: Approved

- 4.3 Management Update
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>

One public comment was heard.

Director Christensen shared that an active community member, Katherine Sweet, recently passed away. Director Christensen recognized Ms. Sweet's contributions to the Soquel community.

6. REPORTS

6.1 District Counsel – Oral Report

District Counsel Nelson provided update on California's COVID-19 executive orders, mask requirements, and the statewide reopenings scheduled for June 15, 2021. He noted that the Brown Act modifications (allowing for virtual public meetings) will continue until September 30, 2021.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

7.1 Conditional and Unconditional Will Serve Letters – *None*

7.2 Request to Consider Final Adoption of the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan and 2020 Water Shortage Contingency Plan

Ms. Flock requested that the Board consider final adoption of the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP), by Resolution 21-10, and the 2020 Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP), by Resolution 21-11. The WSCP is a component of the UWMP and also serves as a stand-alone section which can be altered and updated independently of the UWMP.

Ms. Flock explained that critical sections of the UWMP have been presented to the Board and the public for input over the past few months. She stated that a public hearing was held on May 18, 2021, and she reviewed the changes made since that meeting, which are also summarized in the memo.

The submittal deadline for the 2020 UWMP and 2020 WSCP is July 1, 2021.

One public comment was heard.

In response to two questions posed by Director Daniels, staff highlighted the following:

- Attachment 1 is the Draft 2020 UWMP with track changes, so any formatting errors should be fixed in Attachment 2, the Final 2020 UWMP.
- Rainfall data is based on CIMIS weather station 104 De Laveaga Average (which may have minor differences from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) rainfall data).

Director Christensen stated that she has no further comments on the UWMP and WSCP, since any questions were addressed at previous meetings. Director Jaffe agreed.

Directors thanked staff for their hard work preparing the report. Vice-President LaHue expressed support for the process, noting that he appreciated reviewing the draft sections over time.

MOTION: Director Daniels; Second: Director Christensen; To adopt Resolution 21-10 (**Attachment 3**), adopt the 2020 UWMP included as Attachment 2 as-is, and did not request any further revisions. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote. President Lather absent.

MOTION: Director Daniels; Second: Director Christensen; To direct staff to file the adopted 2020 UWMP with the California Department of Water Resources by July 1, 2021. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote. President Lather absent.

MOTION: Director Daniels; Second: Director Christensen; To adopt Resolution 21-11 (**Attachment 4**), adopt the 2020 WSCP included in Attachment 2 as-is, and did not request any further revisions. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote. President Lather absent.

MOTION: Director Daniels; Second: Director Christensen; To direct staff to file the adopted 2020 WSCP with the California Department of Water Resources by July 1, 2021. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote. President Lather absent.

7.3 2021-2022 Water Shortage Stage Evaluation and Declaration

Ms. Abbey reviewed Item 7.3, explaining that this item provides information on the current state of the trigger conditions outlined in the newly adopted 2020 Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP), so that the Board may declare a water shortage stage that will be effective for the for the remainder of 2021 and the beginning of 2022.

Ms. Abbey stated that the rainfall triggers indicate a Stage 2, and the 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).

One public comment was heard.

Directors responded to public comment.

Director Daniels discussed the relationship between rainfall and recharge, explaining that only a small fraction of rainfall makes it into the groundwater supply via recharge. Analysis shows that when rainfall is near average, or below average, even less proportionally contributes to recharge. He expressed support for utilizing recharge, rather than rainfall, for future water shortage stage evaluations.

Director Jaffe and Director Christensen stated that they are supportive of staff's recommendation.

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

7.4 Informational: California Department of Water Resources Approves the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Basin (Basin 3-001) Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Ms. Mow Schumacher announced that the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) approved the Santa Cruz Mid-County Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). Staff shared portions of the [video message](#) released by DWR.

One public comment was heard.

Mr. Duncan expressed appreciation for the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency, and for the District's representatives who served on and supported the MGA. He emphasized that this is a monumental moment for the community and represents years of work, collaboration, and good leadership.

Directors expressed support for the MGA and the GSP. Vice-President LaHue recognized that the District's Pure Water Soquel (PWS) Project is key to the GSP and necessary for our community and groundwater basin to achieve sustainability.

INFORMATION ITEM ONLY.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Vice-President LaHue adjourned the meeting at 7:41 pm.

SUBMITTED:



Emma Olin, Board Clerk

APPROVED:



Dr. Tom LaHue, Vice-President