



**MEETING MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING – 6:00 PM  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2021**

In response to COVID-19, Soquel Creek Water District’s August 17, 2021 Board Meeting was held remotely via Zoom.

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

President Lather called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm via Zoom.

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

**Board Members Present:**

Rachél Lather, President  
Dr. Thomas LaHue, Vice-President  
Dr. Bruce Daniels  
Carla Christensen  
Dr. Bruce Jaffe – *Arrived at 6:15 pm*

**District Counsel**

Joshua Nelson, District Counsel

**Staff Members Present:**

Ron Duncan, General 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  
Eileen Eisner-Streller, Assistant Engineer II

**Others Present:**

5 members of the public  
Chad Brown, Black and Veatch  
David Carlson, Black and Veatch  
Anup Shah, Brown and Caldwell

**1. CLOSED SESSION**

1.1 Conference with Labor Negotiators

Agency designated representative: Ron Duncan

Employee organization: Mid-Management and Management Employee Groups

1.2 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 No. Pending

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

- 1.3 Conference with Real Property Negotiators  
Property: 1125 Larkin Valley Rd., Watsonville, CA, 95076 (APN 049-011-25)  
Agency negotiator(s): Ron Duncan and Taj Dufour  
Negotiating Party: Andrew Regan  
Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment

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

Two public comments were heard prior to the start of closed session.

**CONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION – 6:05 pm**

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION – 7:16 pm**

President Lather adjourned the closed session and returned to open session at 7:16 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**

Director Jaffe requested that Item 4.7 be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

President Lather removed Consent Agenda Item 4.7.

**4. CONSENT AGENDA**

Director Jaffe stated that he will abstain from voting on Consent Item 4.1, as he did not attend the July 20, 2021 Board Meeting.

One public comment was heard.

MOTION: Vice-President LaHue; Second: Director Daniels; To approve Consent Agenda Items 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, 4.8, 4.9 and 4.10. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote. Director Jaffe abstained from voting on Item 4.1.
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- 4.1 Approval of Minutes  
4.1.1 July 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 Production Reports  
**Action: Approved**
- 4.5 Management Update  
**Action: Approved**
- 4.6 Small Claims Report for July 2021  
**Action: Approved**
- 4.7 Cliff Dr. and Bayview Dr. Main Replacement Project, Adopt Plans and Specifications, Call for Bids, CWO 21-0131  
**Action: Removed from Consent; Discussed at the end of Administrative Business**
- 4.8 Finance and Administrative Services Committee Meeting Summary  
**Action: Approved**
- 4.9 Public Outreach Committee Meeting Summary  
**Action: Approved**
- 4.10 Water Resources Management and Infrastructure Committee Meeting Summary  
**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 Daniels stated that he attended the Santa Cruz City Water Commission August meeting, and he discussed the City's continued evaluation of water supply projects, including Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR).

Director Christensen discussed an article in the New York Times, which discussed water allocation reductions on the Colorado River. She expressed concern regarding drought.

**6. REPORTS**

6.1 District Counsel – Oral Report

District Counsel Nelson provided an update on the following:

- The Brown Act modifications in response to COVID-19, which allow for virtual public meetings, are scheduled to end September 30, 2021; however, District Counsel Nelson will continue to monitor the situation.
- The State is nearing the end of this year's legislative cycle, with the last day to pass a bill being September 10, 2021.

**7. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

7.1 Conditional and Unconditional Will Serve Letters

- 7.1.1 Unconditional Will Serve Letter and Subdivision Agreement for 3300 Maplethorpe Main Extension Project (Tract 1609), CWO 19-081

Mr. Dufour reviewed the will serve presented for Board consideration, and he clarified that the project would result in 11 total homes.

Director Jaffe asked for additional information regarding the 74 ultra-high efficiency toilets (UHETs) that were installed to meet the remaining 0.444 acre-feet/yr of offset requirement. Mr. Duncan confirmed that he will follow up with the Conservation Department following tonight's meeting.

MOTION: Vice-President LaHue; Second: Director Christensen; To approve an Unconditional Will Serve Letter and subdivision agreement for the 3300 Maplethorpe Main Extension Project (Tract 1609), CWO 19-081. Motion passed by roll call vote (4:1). Director Daniels voted NO

7.2 Approve Budget Revisions for Efforts Related to Pure Water Soquel Pertaining to Design-Build Services by Black and Veatch Construction Inc.

Ms. Mow Schumacher stated that Item 7.2 is presented for the Board to consider approving a contract amendment in the amount not-to-exceed \$526,864, for additional Black and Veatch Construction Inc. (BVCI) design-build services to support the Pure Water Soquel (PWS) Project. Budget for this contract amendment is included in the District's Fiscal Year 2021/22 Budget. Since the initiation of these contracts, the collaborative design process and additional project data has confirmed that the District will need, pursuant to the District's December 18, 2018 approvals, BVCI to perform additional work to be brought to the Board related to the procurement services of the microfiltration (MF)-reverse osmosis (RO) systems related to the purification treatment process that was detailed and analyzed in the PWS Project EIR.

Board discussion ensued, and Ms. Mow Schumacher responded to a variety of questions:

- The District contracted with BVCI in March 2020 to perform work related to the procurement services of the MF-RO systems needed for PWS Project purification treatment process.
- The contract amendment includes the following:
  - Limited Notice to Proceed (LNTP) for the MF/RO system.
  - LNTP to system supplier to do engineering coordination, engineering design, and submittals.
  - Engineering services to review, comment, reconcile comments and approve the equipment submittals including coordination with system supplier.

MOTION: Vice-President LaHue; Second: Director Christensen; To approve the budget modification and related work for design-build services for the treatment facilities project with BVCI in the amount not-to-exceed \$526,864. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

7.3 Moosehead Drive Emergency Main Replacement Bid Award and Funding from Operating Contingency Reserves, CWO 08-38

Mr. Dufour stated that Item 7.3 is presented for the Board to consider authorizing a contract to E&S Trucking for the Moosehead Drive Emergency Main Replacement Project. This work is not included in the 2020-21 budget, so an allocation from the Operating Contingency Reserve (OCR) is needed.

In response to a question posed by Director Daniels, Mr. Dufour stated that water quality concerns prompted staff to expedite this project. He explained that the 2-inch galvanized steel watermain predates the formation of the District and has been on the Capital Improvement Program list for many years, but has been deferred due to other higher priority projects.

MOTION: Vice-President LaHue; Second: Director Jaffe; (1) authorize transfer of funds from Operating Contingency Reserves in the amount of \$85,000, (2) adopt Resolution No. 21-19 for award of contract to E&S Trucking for the Moosehead Drive Emergency Main Replacement Project, (3) to authorize the General Manager to execute a purchase order to E&S Trucking in the amount of \$77,485 and (4) to authorize staff to file a Notices of Exemption related to these actions. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**4. CONSENT AGENDA - ITEMS REMOVED FOR DISCUSSION**

4.7 Cliff Dr. and Bayview Dr. Main Replacement Project, Adopt Plans and Specifications, Call for Bids, CWO 21-0131

Director Jaffe asked if the District specifies the working hours of the contractor to minimize impacts to the community. Mr. Dufour stated that crews typically work from 8 am to 5 pm, and the encroachment permit obtained from the County of Santa Cruz dictates the traffic control measures.

Director Jaffe shared that he has received positive feedback from the community regarding traffic control measures and limited impacts for other main replacement projects, and he encouraged staff to continue to look for ways to reduce impacts.

MOTION: Director Jaffe; Second: Director Christensen; To adopt Resolution No. 21-16 adopting plans and specifications for the Cliff Dr. and Bayview Dr. Main Replacement Project, CWO 21-0131. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

MOTION: Director Jaffe; Second: Director Christensen; To adopt Resolution No. 21-17 setting prevailing wages and calling for bids for the Cliff Dr. and Bayview Dr. Main Replacement Project, CWO 21-0131. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.


**8. ADJOURNMENT**

President Lather adjourned the meeting at 7:55 pm.

SUBMITTED:

  
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Emma Olin, Board Clerk

APPROVED:

  
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Rachél Lather, President