



**MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING – 6:00 PM
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2022**

In response to COVID-19 (coronavirus), Soquel Creek Water District's November 1, 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

District Counsel

Joshua Nelson, District Counsel

Staff Members Present:

Ron Duncan, General Manager
Shelley Flock, Conservation and Customer Service Field Manager
Leslie Strohm, Finance Manager
Traci Hart, Human Resources Manager
Nicholas Emmert, Operations and Maintenance Manager (Interim)
Rebecca Rubin, Public Outreach Coordinator
Emma Western, Executive Assistant/Board Clerk

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. 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

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.

President LaHue reported that the Board discussed Item 1.1 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

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

4.1 Approval of Minutes – None

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 Finance and Administrative Services Committee Meeting Summary
Action: Approved

4.6 Request Approval to Contribute \$5,000 to the NWRI to Develop a Uniform Guide to Pathogen Reduction Credits to Streamline Potable Reuse Permitting
Action: Approved

4.7 Consider Approval of Operation and Maintenance Agreement with the City of Santa Cruz for the Operation and Maintenance of the Pure Water Soquel Project Facilities located at the City of Santa Cruz Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility
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

7.1.1 Unconditional Will Serve for Single Family Home at 4077 Cherryvale Ave, Soquel. APN: 104-221-18 (Andrade)

Ms. Flock reviewed Item 7.1, which presents one unconditional will serve application for a 1.05 acre parcel in Soquel for Board consideration. Because the application exceeds 1 acre-ft/yr in water demand offset, Board approval is required.

Director Jaffe emphasized the importance of outreach and notifying new customers of the WaterSmart program, which helps customers understand and monitor their water use. Ms. Flock agreed.

Director Daniels commented on the future of the Water Demand Offset (WDO) program, suggesting a gradual ending to the program be considered. Mr. Duncan stated that his remarks are valued, and staff plans to bring an item at a future Board Meeting to discuss the WDO program.

Vice-President Christensen questioned if the applicant considered deed restrictions on the subject parcel. Ms. Flock explained that staff typically does not recommend deed restrictions for usable parcels, but ultimately that decision is up to the applicant.

MOTION: Director Jaffe; Second: Vice-President Christensen; To approve an unconditional will serve letter for the single-family residence at 4077 Cherryvale Ave., Soquel, APN 104-221-18. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

7.2 Consider Approval and Funding to Select and Hire a Consultant to Evaluate What Type of Strategic Partnership Would Best Serve Both the Scotts Valley Water District (SVWD) and the Soquel Creek Water District (SqCWD) agencies, and Our Respective Customers

Mr. Duncan stated that this item is presented to request Board authorization for staff to work with Scotts Valley Water District (SVWD) to have a third party conduct a study to evaluate what type of an enhanced strategic partnership, if any, would be beneficial to both agencies and produce value to their respective customers and the environment.

Mr. Duncan explained that this request is presented at the recommendation of the ad-hoc committee, which was formed in March 2022 to explore collaborative strategies and resources between SqCWD and the SVWD. He noted that Directors Christensen and Lather served on the ad-hoc committee.

In response to a question posed by Director Jaffe, Mr. Duncan provided a tentative timeline for the procurement of a consultant (~1-3 months) and completion of the study (~1 year).

Director Jaffe commented that he is supportive of splitting the cost of the study equally with SVWD. Mr. Duncan agreed, and he added that the goal is to invest in the study now to potentially result in future cost-savings between the two agencies.

Vice-President Christensen stated that she served on the ad-hoc committee and met with representatives at SVWD for the past 6 months. She stated that she supports this study as the logical next step. Director Lather agreed, and she added that the study will help quantify potential collaborative activities.

Director Daniels suggested that the request for proposals (RFP) identify specific areas of focus for the study to evaluate and explore. Mr. Duncan stated that he believes the purpose of the study is to explore a full range of possible collaborative activities between the two agencies. Discussion ensued, and there was consensus to present the draft RFP to the SqCWD Board for review and approval before it is published. Director Jaffe stated that he will include a third, new motion to memorialize this request.

MOTION: Director Jaffe; Second: Director Daniels; To approve an allocation of up to \$37,500 from the Operating Contingence Reserve (OCR) for the study requested regarding an evaluation of an enhanced strategic partnership between SVWD and SqCWD. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

MOTION: Director Jaffe; Second: Director Daniels; if SVWD's Board of Directors concurs, conduct a competitive selection process and hire a consultant to perform a study to evaluate what type of enhanced strategic partnership, if any, would benefit each agency, its respective customers and the environment. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

MOTION: Director Jaffe; Second: Director Daniels; To provide the Board an opportunity to comment on the draft request for proposals (RFP) before it is published. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

8. ADJOURNMENT

President LaHue adjourned the meeting at 6:45 pm.

SUBMITTED:



Emma Western, Board Clerk

APPROVED:



Dr. Tom LaHue, President