

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
of the
SUNNYSLOPE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
March 19th, 2024

A. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 4:32 p.m. by President Mauro, at the Sunnyslope County Water District office, 3570 Airline Highway, Hollister, California.

ROLL CALL: Present in Person: President Edward Mauro (EM), Vice President James Parker (JP), Director Dee Brown (DB), Director Jerry Buzzetta (JB), Director Michael Alcorn (MA).

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CLOSED SESSION MATTERS: The Board welcomed members of the public and opened the meeting to public comments regarding matters identified on the Closed Session agenda. No comments were received.

C. CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTIONS:

1. Labor Negotiation Discussion (§ 54957)

Request to Open Contract Negotiations with Collective Bargaining Unit

2. Conference with Legal Counsel (§ 54957)

Potential Litigation Pertaining to Urban Area Water Supply and Treatment Agreement

President Mauro retired to closed session at 4:35 p.m. and upon returning to the regular session, moved to take a brief recess at 5:24p.m. The meeting was reconvened to open session at 5:30p.m.

D. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Director Buzzetta led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

E. REPORT IN OPEN SESSION ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION:

1. Labor Negotiation Discussion (§ 54957)

Attorney Michael Laredo reported that the board discussed appointment of a lead negotiator and directed DeLay & Laredo to act as the lead negotiator for the district to conduct negotiations with the collective bargaining unit.

2. Conference with Legal Counsel (§ 54957)

General Status Discussion, no reportable action taken.

F. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: President Mauro requested a motion to approve the agenda. Director Alcorn motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Director Parker, for which President Mauro then took a roll call vote as follows: (DB), yes; (JB), yes; (MA), yes; (JP), yes; and (EM), yes; the motion carried 5-0.

G. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND AUDIENCE INTRODUCTIONS: The Board welcomed members of the public and opened the meeting to public comments regarding matters not itemized on the agenda. No comments were received.

Staff Present for Open Session: In Person: General Manager/Secretary Drew Lander, Executive Assistant/Stenographer Madison Koester, Water/ Wastewater Superintendent Jose Rodriguez, Finance and HR Manager Barry Kelly.

H. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of Minutes for:

Special Board Meeting of February 27th, 2024.

Special Board Meeting of March 12th, 2024 – Director Alcorn asked that the minutes reflect that he arrived late to the meeting but that he was in attendance at the March 12th meeting. Director Buzzetta also commented that he wanted his absence clarified, he did not attend the meeting due to him not being notified about it. This issue has since been resolved with the General Manager and should not cause further problems This request was supported by the board and with this amendment the item was included in the Consent Agenda approval.

2. Allowance of Claims – The Board reviewed the Disbursement Summary (below) for the period of February 1, 2024 through February 29, 2024, totaling \$1,721,712.41 which includes \$531,134.96 for payments to vendors, \$255,581.17 for Payroll, \$448,919.68 paid to the City of Hollister for collection of City sewer billings (net of our fees), and \$1,898.88 for customer refunds.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
02/02/2024	52172	ACC Business	\$1,343.14
02/02/2024	52173	AT&T	\$1,037.23
02/02/2024	52174	Brenntag Pacific, Inc.	\$7,042.08
02/02/2024	52175	Hollister Auto Parts, Inc.	\$150.57
02/02/2024	52176	Meter, Valve & Control	\$3,078.63
02/02/2024	52177	Mission Uniform Service	\$501.57
02/02/2024	52178	Petty Cash	\$90.00
02/02/2024	52179	Ridgemark Homeowners Association	\$105.00
02/02/2024	52180	San Benito County Water District	\$484,177.72
02/02/2024	52182	USA Blue Book	\$974.30
02/02/2024	52183	UWUA Local 820	\$784.72
02/02/2024	52184	VEOLIA WTS Analytical Instruments, Inc	\$7,025.43
02/02/2024	52185	Wright Bros. Welding & Sheet Metal, Inc.	\$217.89
02/05/2024	ACH2788	Principal	\$3,380.16
02/05/2024	ACH2789	P G & E	\$25,193.24
02/06/2024	ACH2790	iCloud	\$12,762.15
02/08/2024	52186	DiBuduo & DeFendis Insurance Brokers, LLC	\$3,116.04
02/08/2024	52187	LARRY & BARBARA HOPPE	\$67.77
02/08/2024	52188	JOYCE & DAVID MACHADO	\$258.10
02/08/2024	52189	SHIVARAJ MALLALLI & MARSHINI RAO	\$135.81
02/08/2024	52190	SEATEC UNDERGROUND UTILITIES,	\$410.84
02/08/2024	52191	ANDERSON HOMES,	\$402.40
02/09/2024	ACH2791	ADP	\$2,221.35
02/09/2024	JN00546	Net Pay	\$67,906.73
02/09/2024	JN00546	Total Tax	\$17,388.73
02/13/2024	52192	Ace Hardware (Johnson Lumber Co.)	\$494.15
02/13/2024	52193	Brenntag Pacific, Inc.	\$5,960.75
02/13/2024	52194	Brigantino Irrigation	\$122.99
02/13/2024	52195	City of Hollister-Finance Dept	\$448,919.68
02/13/2024	52196	Clean Brothers	\$150.00
02/13/2024	52197	CM Analytical, Inc.	\$14,225.00
02/13/2024	52198	EBCO Pest Control	\$75.00
02/13/2024	52199	Edges Electrical Group, LLC	\$45.34
02/13/2024	52200	exceedio	\$15,035.30

02/13/2024	52201	Hollister Auto Parts, Inc.	\$71.70
02/13/2024	52202	Interstate Battery System of San Jose Inc	\$156.74
02/13/2024	52203	John Smith Road Landfill	\$2,099.40
02/13/2024	52204	Mc Master-Carr	\$67.61
02/13/2024	52205	Mission Uniform Service	\$457.76
02/13/2024	52206	O'Reilly Auto Parts	\$56.31
02/13/2024	52207	Recology San Benito County	\$342.91
02/13/2024	52208	RJR Recycling	\$2,000.00
02/13/2024	52209	San Benito Engineering & Surveying Inc.	\$4,960.00
02/13/2024	52210	San Benito Tire Pros & Automotive	\$937.26
02/13/2024	52211	Toro Petroleum Corp.	\$2,128.23
02/13/2024	52212	U.S. Bank Corporate Payment Systems	\$6,201.87
02/13/2024	52213	ULINE	\$461.94
02/13/2024	52214	Unified Truck Services	\$300.00
02/13/2024	52215	William K Boltz	\$102.57
02/13/2024	52216	Wright Bros. Welding & Sheet Metal, Inc.	\$471.84
02/14/2024	ACH2792	CalPERS - Retirement	\$23.08
02/14/2024	ACH2793	Colonial Life	\$1,922.76
02/14/2024	ACH2794	CalPERS - Retirement	\$7,977.46
02/14/2024	ACH2795	CalPERS - Retirement	\$8,400.39
02/14/2024	ACH2796	Nationwide Retirements Solutions	\$8,840.53
02/15/2024	ACH2797	Sterling Administration Health	\$14.58
02/16/2024	ACH2798	Sterling Administration Health	\$10.00
02/20/2024	ACH2799	Sterling Administration Health	\$100.00
02/20/2024	ACH2800	Sterling Administration Health	\$1,596.00
02/21/2024	52217	A-1 Services	\$403.00
02/21/2024	52218	Ace Hardware (Johnson Lumber Co.)	\$179.10
02/21/2024	52219	Auto Tech Service Center, Inc.	\$260.00
02/21/2024	52220	Brenntag Pacific, Inc.	\$9,910.78
02/21/2024	52221	Brigantino Irrigation	\$123.19
02/21/2024	52222	Calcon System, Inc.	\$1,690.00
02/21/2024	52223	Calgon Carbon Corporation	\$71,697.79
02/21/2024	52224	Central Ag Supply LLC	\$1,413.00
02/21/2024	52225	Charles P. Crowley Company, Inc.	\$489.08
02/21/2024	52226	Corbin Willits Systems, Inc. (MOM's)	\$150.00
02/21/2024	52227	De Lay & Laredo	\$6,275.00
02/21/2024	52228	DXP Enterprises, Inc.	\$592.97
02/21/2024	52229	exceedio	\$8,410.00
02/21/2024	52230	Hach Company	\$4,955.69
02/21/2024	52231	J M Electric	\$334.00
02/21/2024	52232	Mission Uniform Service	\$947.38
02/21/2024	52233	Municipal Maintenance Equipment	\$2,145.45
02/21/2024	52234	MuniQuip, LLC	\$2,685.48
02/21/2024	52235	Star Concrete	\$262.20
02/21/2024	52236	State Water Resources Control Brd-WWOPCP	\$110.00
02/21/2024	52237	Toro Petroleum Corp.	\$2,052.50
02/21/2024	52238	TPO	\$175.00
02/21/2024	52239	Trans Union LLC	\$219.10
02/21/2024	52240	Troy Quick	\$108.25
02/21/2024	52241	Unified Truck Services	\$992.13
02/21/2024	52242	USA Blue Book	\$153.89
02/21/2024	52243	Wienhoff Drug Testing	\$75.00
02/21/2024	52244	Wistex II LLC	\$5,840.00

02/21/2024	ACH2801	ADP	\$236.30
02/23/2024	JN00547	Net Pay	\$66,242.02
02/23/2024	JN00547	Total Tax	\$17,460.94
02/26/2024	52261	GURBACHMAN MANN	\$257.95
02/26/2024	52262	SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS	\$267.46
02/26/2024	52263	CHARLES/NICOLE BELLEMARE	\$28.32
02/26/2024	52264	ADRIANA BURKE	\$29.70
02/26/2024	52265	GABRIELA LIZET RUBIO	\$40.53
02/26/2024	ACH2802	CalPERS - Retirement	\$23.08
02/26/2024	ACH2803	Sterling Administration Health	\$48.02
02/26/2024	ACH2804	CalPERS - Retirement	\$7,907.70
02/26/2024	ACH2805	CalPERS - Retirement	\$8,382.53
02/26/2024	ACH2806	Nationwide Retirements Solutions	\$8,840.55
02/26/2024	ACH2807	CalPERS - Health Insurance	\$29,115.91
02/28/2024	52246	Ace Hardware (Johnson Lumber Co.)	\$171.00
02/28/2024	52247	Badger Meter, Inc.	\$77,858.81
02/28/2024	52248	Brenntag Pacific, Inc.	\$59,932.93
02/28/2024	52249	exceedio	\$4,583.54
02/28/2024	52250	Filmtec Corporation	\$1,361.00
02/28/2024	52251	Green Line	\$2,490.00
02/28/2024	52252	InfoSend	\$10,140.46
02/28/2024	52253	Kruger	\$75,307.63
02/28/2024	52254	Mission Uniform Service	\$543.58
02/28/2024	52255	Petty Cash	\$135.00
02/28/2024	52256	Raftelis Financial Consultants, Inc.	\$11,330.00
02/28/2024	52257	State Water Resources Control Board-DWPF	\$40,981.56
02/28/2024	52258	USA Blue Book	\$86.58
02/28/2024	52259	Verizon Wireless	\$459.58
02/28/2024	52260	YourMembership.com, Inc	\$299.00

-\$1,721,712.41

3. Receive Associate Engineer Monthly Status Report. (February Report Not Available)

President Mauro asked for public comment and upon receiving none, President Mauro requested a motion to approve the consent agenda with the corrections to both Director Buzzetta and Alcorn's attendance in the meeting minutes of March 12th, 2024. Upon a motion made by Director Brown to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Director Parker, for which President Mauro then took a roll call vote as follows: (DB), yes; (JB), yes; (MA), yes; (JP), yes; and (EM) yes; the motion carried 5-0.

I. NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Consider Identifying And Approving Board Members To Attend The Association Of California Water Agencies Conference (ACWA) And The ACWA/Joint Powers Insurance Authority (JPIA) Meeting May 7 – May 9, 2024, In Person Meeting, Not To Exceed \$3100 Per Attendee. (Not A Project Under CEQA Per Article 20, Section 15378)**

General Manager Lander brings this item to the board yearly in order to give Directors a chance to check their calendars and make arrangements to attend one of the two yearly

ACWA conferences. This year the conferences will take place in Sacramento and Palm Desert and \$3,100 per director was calculated as being appropriate funds for attendance and accommodations.

Director Alcorn requested a clarification to the motion that ensures each director will have an allowance of \$3,100 per year to be spent at either ACWA conference.

At this time no directors were available for the Spring ACWA conference, but all of the directors were possibly interested in attending the Fall conference.

President Mauro then asked for any public comment. Upon receiving no public comment, President Mauro requested a motion to approve the item. Director Alcorn made a motion to approve all Board Members to attend either of The Association Of California Water Agencies (ACWA) and The ACWA/Joint Powers Insurance Authority (JPIA) Conferences, In Person Meeting, Not To Exceed \$3100 Per Attendee Per Calendar Year. This motion was seconded by Director Parker for which President Mauro then took a roll call vote as follows: (DB), yes; (JB), yes; (MA) yes; (JP) yes; and (EM), yes; the motion carried 5-0.

2. Consider And Adopt Resolution #599 Detailing Proposed Updates To The Following Policies:

a. Policy # 7100 – Board Meetings, Change Of Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting Day To The 4th Tuesday Of Each Month.

b. Policy # 7060 – Committees Of The Board Of Directors, Creation Of New Standing Committee Named Governance Committee.

General Manager Lander spoke on this item, referencing previous director recommendations as the reason this item was brought to the board for approval. In the January 2024 meeting it was recommended that meetings be moved to the 4th Tuesday of the month, except for the December meetings to avoid the holiday week. This would give our staff more time to ensure accuracy in their staff reports.

Additionally in the January 2024 meeting the Board considered having the Governance Committee become a standalone committee so that there were more opportunities for the Board Members to participate in said committees.

Director Parker commented that he was opposed to changing the schedule in the middle of the year, as now a couple meetings have past and directors may have outside commitments that interfere with being able to attend the monthly meetings.

President Mauro then asked for any public comment. Upon receiving no public comment, President Mauro requested a motion to approve the item. Director Alcorn made a motion to Consider and Adopt Resolution #599 Detailing Proposed Updates to Policy #7100 and Policy #7060. This motion was seconded by Director Brown for which President Mauro then took a roll call vote as follows: (JB), yes; (DB), yes; (MA) yes; (JP) no; and (EM), yes; the motion carried 4-1.

3. Consider pursuing contractual services for professional consultant support to update the SSCWD Strategic plan.

General Manager Lander brought this item to the board to discuss getting an updated strategic plan, since the last formal plan that was adopted ended in 2017. The purpose of the strategic plan is to encourage expansion in the district and to inform customers of what the District's goals are. Mr. Lander commented that he recently reached out to a firm,

Strategy Driver Incorporated, who have worked with other local water districts in successfully completing admirable strategic plans. The estimated cost of the project would be between fifty and a hundred thousand.

Directors had back and forth conversation on the pros and cons of contracting professional services to update the strategic plan at this time. It was agreed that although the directors would like the Corporation to come and give a presentation to discuss the benefits, there are other district projects that should be completed and presented to the board before such a large investment is made in strategic planning.

This item was tabled for a future meeting.

J. BOARD COMMITTEE and STATUS REPORTS

1. **Governance Committee:** (Meeting held March 13 No action taken.)
2. **Water/Wastewater Committee:** (Meeting held Feb. 16, No action taken.)
3. **Finance Committee:** (Meeting held Feb. 16, No action taken.)
4. **Policy and Procedure Committee:** (No meeting)
5. **Personnel Committee:** (Meeting held Feb 16, No action taken.) (Meeting held Feb 22, Recommendation advanced to the March 19th meeting for Board Consideration.)
6. **Water Resources Association of San Benito County (WRA):** (Meeting held Feb. 8, Annual Business Meeting)

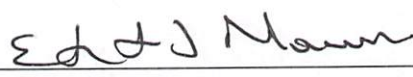
K. BOARD and STAFF REPORTS

1. **Directors:** No Report.
2. **District Counsel:** Attorney Michael Laredo reported that a recent court case, Lindke v. Freed, changed the guidelines on public officials being able to block online hecklers and critics. Mr. Laredo did advise the board to seek counsel through him before taking such actions though to make sure all new guidelines are being met.
3. **General Manager:** GM Lander reported that San Benito County Elections will be administering the 2024 elections for the district, there are two seats on the ballot for the year. In addition, Mr. Lander commented on the various projects throughout the district and gave status updates on the grants that are assisting in funding these projects.

L. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: Rate Model Review

M. ADJOURNMENT: President Mauro adjourned the meeting at 6:29 p.m.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD:



Edward J. Mauro, President

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

