



**MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
OF THE SANTA FE IRRIGATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

March 18, 2021
Santa Fe Irrigation District
5920 Linea del Cielo
Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067

Due to the COVID-19 State of Emergency and pursuant waivers to certain Brown Act provisions under the Governor's Executive Orders, meetings of the Board and Board Committees will be conducted via Zoom Meeting (webinar/teleconference) and there will be no physical location from which members of the public may participate. Instead, the public may listen and/or view the meeting proceedings and provide public comment and comments on specific agenda items by following the posted instructions, including how to submit written comments for inclusion, instructions for viewing or listening to the meeting, and how to participate via Zoom. Additionally, these public comment procedures supersede the District's standard public comment policies and procedures to the contrary.

ROLL CALL - CALL MEETING TO ORDER

President Hogan called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: President Michael Hogan, Vice President Frank Creede, and Directors Dana Frieauf, Sandra Johnson, and Andy Menshek were present.

STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT: General Manager Albert Lau, Executive Assistant Kim Johnson, Administrative Services Manager Seth Gates, Engineering Services Manager Rania Amen, Distribution System Manager Chris Bozir, Water Treatment Plant Manager Tim Bailey, Public Communications Officer Teresa Penunuri, General Counsel Paula de Sousa, Best Best & Krieger, and members of the public were present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Hogan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEMS TO BE ADDED TO THE AGENDA – None

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None

PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS

1. Employee Recognition:
 - a. Marco Martinez, 5 years of service to the District
 - b. Introduction of New Employees:
 1. Cesar Vigil Guzman, Utility Worker I
 2. Joseph Murrieta, Utility Worker I

GM Lau introduced the employees, and via a PowerPoint presentation, provided an outline of Mr. Martinez’s accomplishments, and Mr. Guzman and Mr. Murrieta’s experience prior to joining the District. The Board thanked Marco for his service and welcomed Cesar and Joseph to the District.

**ACTION AGENDA
CONSENT ITEMS**

2. Approval of Minutes:
 - a. February 18, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes
 - b. March 3, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes
3. Receive and File Monthly Finance Reports
 - a. Budget Performance
 - b. Disbursements
 - c. Monthly Investment Transaction Report
4. Waive Full Reading and Adopt Resolution No. 21-05 Expressing Appreciation and Commending James Gingrich for Outstanding Service to the Santa Fe Irrigation District

Director Johnson requested Item 2b, March 3, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes, be considered separately from the Consent Calendar.

Upon a motion by Director Menshek and second by Director Johnson, the Board unanimously adopted the Consent Calendar, as amended. Roll call vote was taken as follows:

Ayes: Creede, Friehauf, Johnson, Menshek, and Hogan
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Item 2b. March 3, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes

Director Johnson questioned the content of the public comment, as it was verbatim from the email correspondence received, and stated she felt the comments should have been summarized. She requested the item be revised by the Board Secretary and reviewed by the Executive Committee prior to Board reconsideration at the April Board meeting.

GC de Sousa explained that the District's Administrative Code currently dictated how minutes should be prepared, which is in line with Director Johnson's comments; however, felt that during the virtual meetings, the Board could exercise their judgment on how the minutes reflect written public comments received.

After discussion, a motion was made by Director Johnson and seconded by President Hogan to continue Item 2b to the April Board meeting, to present the revised minutes to the Executive Committee prior to Board reconsideration at their regular April meeting, and review the proposed revisions to the District's Administrative Code, Article 4. Roll call vote was taken as follows:

Ayes: Creede, Frieauf, Johnson, Menshek, and Hogan
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. Consider Appeal of Water Bill by William Domann

GC de Sousa shared the District's Leak Policy terms prior to consideration of the item.

ASM Gates presented the item and responded to questions from the Board.

Mr. Domann addressed the Board, requesting consideration of his request.

After discussion, upon a motion by Director Frieauf, and second by Vice President Creede, the Board unanimously denied the appeal by William Domann. Roll call vote was taken as follows:

Ayes: Creede, Frieauf, Johnson, Menshek, and Hogan
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

The Board again stressed the need for increased community outreach for the AMI Customer Portal and portal revisions to increase ease of use.

6. Consider Actions Related to and for the R.E. Badger Operations Roof Replacement Project (Project J-2050):

- a. Award a Construction Contract for Project J-2050 to the lowest responsive bidder, Commercial Waterproofing Systems dba ERC Roofing & Waterproofing, in the amount of \$519,000 (SFID \$285,450 and SDWD \$233,550); and
- b. Adopt Resolution No. 21-06 Finding the R.E. Badger Roof Replacement Project (Project J-2050), Categorically Exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act and Approving the Project

ESM Amen presented the item utilizing a PowerPoint presentation and responded to questions from the Board. She noted that the District benefitted from this project being rebid due to many factors triggering the Board to reject all bids in October, 2020.

After discussion, a motion was made by Director Menshek and seconded by Director Frieauf, to award the construction contract to Commercial Waterproofing Systems dba ERC Roofing & Waterproofing in the amount of \$519,000 and adopting Resolution No. 21-06 finding the project categorically exempt under CEQA and approving the project. Roll call vote was taken as follows:

Ayes: Creede, Frieauf, Johnson, Menshek, and Hogan
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

7. Review and Discuss the District Water Demand Projections for the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan

ESM Amen presented the item and responded to questions from the Committee. Ms. Amen discussed the purpose of the UWMP, demand projections methodology, projected future conservation targets, the source of data, and the next steps. She continued that the UWMP must be formally adopted by the Board and submitted to the State by July 1, 2021.

The Board requested that a narrative be added to the UWMP addressing the District's emergency response, in addition to the water shortage contingency plan.

The draft Plan will be presented to the Board in April, with a Public Hearing scheduled for the May regular Board meeting, and Board adoption in June.

This item was for the Board's information only. No action was requested or required of the Board.

8. Pension and Other Post-Employment Benefits Overview

ASM Gates utilized a PowerPoint presentation to provide the Board an overview of the District's pension and retiree medical liabilities.

The Board expressed concern for the increasing liabilities and discussed possible strategies for further consideration to continue to fund outstanding liabilities, maintaining a solid financial status, while controlling water rates. The Board directed staff to prepare options for discussion at an upcoming Administrative and Finance Committee prior to Board consideration.

This item was for the Board's information only. No action was requested or required of the Board.

9. Water Supply Update

PCO Penunuri utilized a PowerPoint presentation to provide an update and responded to questions from the Board.

This item was for the Board's information only. No action was requested or required of the Board.

DIRECTORS' COMMENTS

10. Directors' Comments

Vice President Creede mentioned he had discovered that MWD is still offering a turf replacement rebate through Olivenhain MWD and suggested the District improve outreach regarding this and other programs available to customers.

Director Frieauf agreed with Vice President Creede's comments, and noted the Coachella Valley Water District included a great newsletter with their bill. She also thanked staff for a recent tour she had with SDWD Director Mosca of the District's Filtration Plant and facilities.

President Hogan complimented Vice President Creede on his recent article in the Rancho Santa Fe Post.

11. Directors' Reports on Conferences, Activities, and Events

Director Frieauf reported she attended the virtual ACWA State Legislative Symposium on March 11, 2021.

REPORTS

12. Operations Reports

- a. R.E. Badger Filtration Plant Report
- b. Water Resources Report

These reports were provided for the Board's information only. No action was requested or required of the Board.

13. San Diego County Water Authority Board Meeting Report –President Hogan

In addition to the written report included with the Board agenda materials, President Hogan reported that the District's share of the SDCWA litigation settlement of \$44 million is in excess of \$744,000 has been received. He also reported that the Los Angeles Times recently published an article telling a tragic story on employee issues at Metropolitan Water District going back decades.

14. Committee Reports

The Committee reports were included with the agenda materials.

15. General Manager's Report - GM Lau reported on the following:

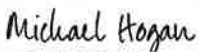
- AMI Customer Portal third party vendors are being explored;
- District staff now have access to COVID-19 vaccines;
- Lloyd Holt, former SFID GM, recently passed;
- He was invited to participate in a CSDA Meeting with Staff of Assemblymember Christopher Ward as an introduction to Special Districts, and hopes through this meeting, to have an advocate for infrastructure funding for Lake Hodges.

16. General Counsel's Comments - General Counsel de Sousa provided an update on a recent guidance letter issued by the Fair Political Practices Commission regarding elected officials' conflict of interest in projects within 500-1000 feet of their primary residence. She also provided an overview of new restrictions on use of social media, which were added by the adoption of AB992, effective January 1, 2021. Ms. de Sousa continued with an update on AB361 amending the Brown Act to allow virtual meetings through declaration of an emergency; Brown Act amendments and an update on AB339 which could require translation services at virtual meetings.

INFORMATION ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

President Hogan adjourned the meeting at 11:39 a.m.



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Michael T. Hogan
Board President



Albert C. Lau
Board Secretary/Treasurer