



Minutes

Del Paso Manor Water District and Sacramento Suburban Water District Joint Special Board Meeting September 11, 2024

Location:

3701 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95821, and Audio Conference at 1-669-900-6833, and Video Conference using Zoom at Meeting ID #871 5959 0504

Call to Order – Videoconference/Audioconference Meeting

Sacramento Suburban Water District (SSWD) Board President Kevin Thomas (Chair Thomas) called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Thomas led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

SSWD Directors

Present: Jay Boatwright, Dave Jones (by Zoom), Craig Locke, Kevin Thomas, and Robert Wichert.

SSWD Directors

Absent: None.

DPMWD Directors

Present: Carl Dolk, Gwynne Pratt, David Ross, and Robert Matteoli.

DPMWD Directors

Absent: None.

SSWD Staff Present: General Manager Dan York (SSWD GM York), Heather Hernandez-Fort, Jeff Ott, Dane Westvik, Jeremy Moody, Brian Patterson, and Julie Nemitz.

DPMWD Staff

Present: Del Paso Manor Water District (DPMWD) General Manager Adam Coyan (DPMWD GM Coyan).

Public Present: SSWD Legal Counsel Josh Horowitz, DPMWD Legal Counsel Mona Ebrahimi, Marissa Burt, Desirae Fox, Ted Costa, Carol Rose, Victoria

Hoppe, Trish Harrington, Roy Wilson, Marcy Hutchinson, Sabrina Gluch, Paul Helliker, Chuck Mensch, Christine Kohn, Karen Cristello, Carol Allen, Janice Hall, Diana Hildebran, Larry Pinney, Beverly Barton, Sondra Paschal, and Kathy Lauer.

Public Comment

Carol Rose (Ms. Rose) expressed she felt the combination discussions were preplanned and provided some examples. She additionally requested to stop holding the informational meetings until after the November 5, 2024, election, in an effort to be fair to the candidates running for the DPMWD Board.

Marcy Hutchinson (Ms. Hutchinson) asked several clarifying questions.

SSWD Director Wichert requested a copy of Ms. Hutchinson’s questions and let her know staff would address her questions at the upcoming Public Information Workshop.

Chuck Mensch stated he was a candidate for the DPMWD Board, and that he was disappointed that the fifth Director seat had not been filled yet, and he expressed his desire for DPMWD to remain independent.

Janice Hall (Ms. Hall) expressed she was interested in DPMWD running as efficiently as possible and stated she did not yet have an opinion on consolidation.

DPMWD Director Ross requested to reorder Items on the Agenda. He requested to move Item 4 into the Item 2 position, and Item 6 into the Item 3 position.

Chair Thomas agreed to reorder the Agenda as requested.

SSWD Director Wichert moved to approve reordering the Agenda, SSWD Director Locke seconded.

The SSWD motion passed by unanimous vote.

SSWD Vote:

AYES:	Boatwright, Jones, Locke, Thomas, and Wichert.	ABSTAINED:	
NOES:		RECUSED:	
ABSENT:			

DPMWD Director Ross moved to approve reordering the Agenda; DPMWD Director Pratt seconded.

The DPMWD motion passed by unanimous vote.

DPMWD Vote:

AYES:	Dolk, Pratt, Ross and Matteoli.	ABSTAINED:	
NOES:		RECUSED:	
ABSENT:			

Consent Items

- Draft Minutes of the August 14, 2024, Del Paso Manor Water District and Sacramento Suburban Water District Joint Special Board Meeting**

SSWD Director Locke moved to approve the Consent Item, SSWD Director Wichert seconded.

The SSWD motion passed by unanimous vote.

SSWD Vote:

AYES:	Boatwright, Jones, Locke, Thomas, and Wichert.	ABSTAINED:	
NOES:		RECUSED:	
ABSENT:			

DPMWD Director Ross moved to approve the Consent Item; DPMWD Director Pratt seconded.

The DPMWD motion passed by unanimous vote.

DPMWD Vote:

AYES:	Dolk, Pratt, Ross, and Matteoli.	ABSTAINED:	
NOES:		RECUSED:	
ABSENT:			

Items for Discussion and/or Action

- Operations Assistance**

DPMWD GM Coyan provided a summary of the staff report, commending SSWD staff for doing a great job operating DPMWD’s water system.

SSWD GM York provided additional information, and discussion ensued about the wells, noting that DPMWD wells were the primary supply of water to DPMWD customers, unless DPMWD water pressure dropped, where SSWD would assist in supplying water to DPMWD customers.

- Grant Funding Status**

SSWD GM York presented the staff report.

Jeff Ott provided an update to the staff report as well.

Discussion ensued over options available if grant funding was not approved including an assessment district option.

SSWD GM York expressed that exploring alternative options was a great idea. He reiterated that at some point getting DPMWD ratepayers into the SSWD pay-as-you-go rate structure would be beneficial to allow them to pay into the system for future projects.

Ms. Hall asked clarifying questions.

2. **Sacramento Local Area Formation Commission Resolution**

SSWD GM York presented the staff report.

SSWD Director Wichert recommended the following addition to Section 4. e., “The salaries of these employees shall remain the same as a result of the reorganization and they shall be eligible for cost of living and merit increases the same as all other SSWD employees.”

DPMWD Director Dolk pointed out that under Section 4. h. it was written very subjective, and he recommended to change the language to be more objective, including having the risk assessment of the assessment district be more of a guide that gets periodically updated by an independent contractor to try to align more with SSWD.

SSWD Director Locke pointed out that there were about three top priority projects; metering, removing the steel mains, and installing interties, noting that once those three projects were complete, the assessment district could be dissolved.

DPMWD Director Dolk agreed with SSWD Director Locke and recommended including language into the Resolution addressing his comment.

SSWD Director Locke agreed to have some type of end date to the assessment district.

DPMWD Director Ross pointed out that on Page 2, Section 2, it states “the following assets of the respective districts, although to be assigned and transferred to SSWD shall, nonetheless inure to the exclusive benefit of the ratepayers within the respective service areas of SSWD and DPMWD until the time that the SSWD Board terminates the collection of the assessment.” He requested the word, “inure” be replaced with something more clear.

DPMWD Director Matteoli expressed he had concerns with the process and procedures that got the district where they were presently.

SSWD Director Wichert expressed that there would be time to address the Governance going forward.

Chair Thomas pointed out that if DPMWD Director Matteoli had issues with how DPMWD governance was being handled, to include that in one of their Agendas at their DPMWD Board meetings.

Ms. Rose inquired about how to protest LAFCo.

Discussion ensued over how to protest the combination.

DPMWD Legal Counsel Mona Ebrahimi expressed that the LAFCo representative expressed that the districts would be receiving a written response from them, and she recommended deferring the discussion until after that written response was received.

Trish Harrington requested clarification on a portion of the draft resolution.

Diana Hildebran expressed she is in support of the combination between the two districts as she felt DPMWD was not being run well and felt confident that SSWD had been well run for years.

Ms. Hall inquired if a forensic audit had been performed on DPMWD, and additionally recommended SSWD staff look into the account receivables, as she felt there were accounts that had been unpaid.

SSWD Director Locke expressed that DPMWD's audit firm was very reliable and that he felt confident in their auditing abilities.

3. **Plan for Services and Memorandum of Understanding**

SSWD GM York presented the staff report.

SSWD Director Wichert moved to approve the staff recommendation, SSWD Director Locke seconded.

The SSWD motion passed by unanimous vote.

SSWD Vote:

AYES:	Boatwright, Jones, Locke, Thomas, and Wichert.	ABSTAINED:	
NOES:		RECUSED:	
ABSENT:			

DPMWD Director Pratt moved to approve the staff recommendation; DPMWD Director Ross seconded.

The DPMWD motion passed by 3/1 vote, DPMWD Director Matteoli opposed.

DPMWD Vote:

AYES:	Dolk, Pratt, and Ross.	ABSTAINED:	
NOES:		RECUSED:	
ABSENT:	Matteoli.		

5. **Public Workshop Update**

SSWD GM York presented the staff report.

SSWD Director Wichert requested questions be placed in writing and provided to staff so that those questions could be answered at the Public Information Workshop.

SSWD Director Wichert additionally pointed out that there was a pamphlet circulating with DPMWD Director Matteoli’s name associated with it, and he felt it was filled with incorrect information.

SSWD Director’s Boatwright and Lock each expressed that they would not be able to attend the Public Information Workshop as they both had prior commitments.

7. **Joint Board Meeting Dates and Agenda Items**

SSWD GM York presented the staff report.

Due to some Directors having schedule conflicts, both Boards agreed to move the October 9, 2024, Joint Special Board meeting to October 23, 2024.

Carol Allen addressed sections in the pamphlet that was circulating with DPMWD Director Matteoli’s name associated with it.

SSWD GM York recommended if any customers from either SSWD or DPMWD had questions, that he and DPMWD GM Coyan were available to answer those questions and recommended to reach out to them.

Adjournment

Chair Thomas adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Dan York
General Manager/Secretary
Sacramento Suburban Water District