



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

# MINUTES

**SPECIAL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2017  
1:00 PM**

(Paragraph numbers coincide with agenda item numbers)

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

**1.1. Roll Call.**

Board members in attendance were Tony Estremera, Linda J. LeZotte, Richard Santos, and John L. Varela, constituting a quorum of the Board.

Directors Hsueh and Kremen were excused from attending.

Director Keegan arrived as noted below.

Staff members in attendance were N. Camacho, Interim Chief Executive Officer (Interim CEO), M. King, Clerk/Board of Directors, M. Baratz, R. Callender, A. Cheung, C. Elias, J. Fiedler, A. Fulcher, C. Hakes, G. Hall, V. Gin, N. Nguyen, K. Oven, M. Richardson, S. Stanton, D. Taylor, S. Tikekar, S. Tippetts. Senior Assistant District Counsel B. Hopper represented District Counsel S. Yamamoto.

**2. TIME CERTAIN:**

**1:00 PM**

Chairperson Varela announced that the Board would adjourn to Closed Session for consideration of Item 2.1.

During Closed Session, Director Keegan arrived.

Upon return to Open Session, the same Board members, including Director Keegan, and staff were present.

**2.1. CLOSED SESSION  
PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION  
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b)(1)  
Title: Interim Chief Executive Officer**

## **2:00 PM**

### **2.2. District Counsel Report.**

Mr. Brian Hopper, Senior Assistant District Counsel, reported that on Item 2.1, the Board met in Closed Session with all members present, except Directors Hsueh and Kremen, and took no reportable action.

### **2.3. Pledge of Allegiance/National Anthem.**

Director Estremera led all present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **2.4. Time Open for Public Comment on any Item not on the Agenda.**

Chairperson Varela declared time open for public comment on any item not on the agenda. There was no one present who wished to speak.

### **2.5. President's Day Weekend Flood Report.**

Recommendation:   A. Receive the President's Day Weekend Flood Report;  
                                  and  
                                  B. Provide appropriate direction to staff.

Ms. Norma Camacho, Interim Chief Executive Officer, reviewed the information on this item per the attached Board Agenda Memorandum, and the presentation materials contained in Attachment 1 were reviewed by staff as follows:

Ms. Camacho reviewed Slides 1 through 5; Mr. Dale Jacques, Emergency and Security Manager, reviewed Slides 6 through 14; Ms. Sue Tippets, Deputy Operating Officer, reviewed Slides 15 through 20; Ms. Katherine Owen, Deputy Operating Officer, reviewed Slides 21 through 33; Mr. Vincent Gin, Deputy Operating Officer, reviewed Slides 34 through 41; and Mr. Jim Fiedler, Chief Operating Officer, Water Utilities, reviewed Slides 42 through 58.

Chairperson Varela acknowledged the arrival of San Jose City Mayor Sam Liccardo, and called for cessation of staff's presentation to hear Mayor Liccardo's comments.

The Honorable Sam Liccardo, City of San Jose (City) Mayor, expressed appreciation for the opportunity to meet with the Board, and stated the City's primary goals as being to assist families impacted by the President's Day Weekend Flood Event, and to identify the corrective actions necessary to ensure improved responsiveness. He acknowledged City responsibility for failing to notify and evacuate residents, and confirmed that the City was taking proactive measures to address its shortcomings. He acknowledged the City's reliance on the District for hydrological expertise and other necessary data, expressed the desire to improve City/District communication, and listed the following opportunities for improvement: confirming and making improvements to the accuracy of data; identification of additional information sources; clearly defining lines of responsibility for sediment and vegetation removal; improving communication; increasing multi-agency disaster preparedness training; improving flood protection infrastructure; and ensuring effective mitigation

measures are in place until flood protection infrastructure improvements are made.

Mayor Liccardo expressed concern that information conveyed by District stream gauges was not consistent with information being reported by City staff who were on-site in flood impacted areas during the flood event. He also expressed concern that capacity information for flood risk on Coyote Creek was inconsistent with stream gauge readings at the time that the flooding occurred. He cited that Coyote Creek was rated at 11,500 cubic feet per second (cfs) flow capacity at the Williams Street Bridge when flooding occurred between 5,000 and 6,000 cfs, and cited that flood inundation maps for Coyote Creek did not show any flooding to neighborhoods east of the creek at flow rates below 8,000 cfs.

Mayor Liccardo encouraged the Board to investigate the reported data irregularities, establish additional, reliable sources of information, and develop flood impact analysis processes that would assist cities to more precisely identify which neighborhoods are recommended for evacuation during various flood scenarios.

Mayor Liccardo reiterated the City's commitment to assist the families impacted by the President's Day Weekend Flood Event, and encouraged the District's assistance as well.

Chairperson Varela called for staff presentations to resume, and the remaining materials in Attachment 1 were reviewed as follows: Mr. Fiedler reviewed Slides 59 through 75; and Ms. Melanie Richardson, Interim Chief Operating Officer, Watersheds, reviewed Slides 76 through 80.

Mr. Dana Reid, Santa Clara County Office of Emergency Services (SCCOES) Director, described the SCCOES' role in the President's Day Weekend Flood Event and discussed difficulties associated with storm impact prediction.

Mr. Brian Garcia, National Weather Service (NWS) San Francisco Bay Area Warning Coordination Meteorologist, described NWS's role during storm events and expressed NWS's commitment to continue working with the District and other regional agencies during future events.

Mr. David Sykes, City of San Jose Assistant City Manager, discussed various factors associated with City decision making during the President's Day Weekend Flooding Event, including information received that decreased and deferred the anticipated peak flows to the Rock Springs area from 10,000 cfs on the evening of February 20, 2017, to an anticipated 7,000 cfs at approximately 6:00 p.m. February 21. He acknowledged the City's need for improved emergency outreach communication, and encouraged District and City collaboration to resolve discrepancies cited by the City in flow rate, stream gauge reading, and inundation map data.

Chairperson Varela acknowledged receipt of the attached memorandum from Director Hsueh, identified as Handout 2.5-B herein. Copies of the Handout were distributed to the Board and made available to the public.

Mr. Jeffery Hare, San Jose resident, reported having been present during both the 1997 and 2017 (President's Day Weekend) Coyote Creek Flood Events. He described challenges he faced trying to notify officials during both events, and expressed particular frustration with what he perceived to be a lack of clarity between various agencies in regards to roles and responsibilities for emergency flood response. He encouraged the Board to reinstate sandbag delivery as part of the District's sandbag program; expressed support for completion of the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project; encouraged District contribution towards charities established to assist impacted families; and encouraged the Board to make improvements to District technology and communication.

Professor Catherine Sandoval, Santa Clara University, suggested the Board consider utilizing river height mechanisms for future flood modeling. She expressed support for the installation of more stream gauges and web cameras; expressed support for a whole-watershed approach to flood protection; and advised the Board that neither the District nor NWS websites had information on the flood height for Coyote Creek at the Williams Street bridge.

Mr. Robert Aguirre, of undisclosed residency, expressed support for extending placement alternatives to homeless encampment residents displaced during the President's Day Weekend Flood Event; expressed support for engaging encampment residents in creek clean-up efforts; and advised the Board that he had obtained training to qualify as a legal observer, and was available to observe District staff during future encampment clean ups.

Ms. Suzanne Brenner, San Jose resident, reported also having been present during both the 1997 and 2017 (President's Day Weekend) Coyote Creek Flood Events. She expressed concern with discrepancies in various sources of flow rate data; requested information on whether an outlet pipe existed at the Coyote Reservoir Dam; and alleged that the failure to provide flood protection to the Rock Springs area between the 1997 and 2017 Coyote Creek Flood Events indicated gross negligence on the part of the District.

Mr. Roger Castillo, San Jose resident, expressed opposition to dewatering; discussed the impacts of drought and flood conditions on fisheries; and described his efforts to protect fisheries.

Chairperson Varela acknowledged receipt of the following communications: a letter from Ms. Trish Mulvey, identified as Handout 2.5-A herein; an e-mail from Mr. Colin Heyne, identified as Handout 2.5-C herein; an e-mail from R. Robert Hernandez, identified as Handout 2.5-D herein; a comment card from Ms. Marilyn Holmes, identified as Handout 2.5-E herein; and an e-mail from former District 2 Director Pat Ferraro, identified as Handout 2.5-F herein. Copies of the Handouts were Distributed to the Board and made available to the public.

Director Keegan requested that staff take the experiences expressed by Mr. Hare and Ms. Brenner into account when a Joint Emergency Action Plan is established, and expressed support for including observation, in addition to modeling, as a measure for predicting floods.

Director Estremera suggested conducting an external review of events to identify and establish corrective action plans; and Director LeZotte suggested including replacement of the culvert on Ross Creek at Cherry Road, in future flood protection efforts.

The Board noted the information without formal action, and Chairperson Varela confirmed that discussion on the President's Day Weekend Flood Event would be resumed during the Special Joint Meeting with the District Board and San Jose City Council, at 9:00 a.m. on April 28, 2017.

### **3. ADJOURN:**

#### **3.1. Clerk Review and Clarification of Board Requests.**

There was no Clerk review and clarification of Board requests.

#### **3.2. Adjourn to 11:00 a.m. Closed Session and 1:00 p.m. Regular Meeting on April 11, 2017, in the Santa Clara Valley Water District Headquarters Building Boardroom, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California.**

Chairperson Varela adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m., to the 11:00 a.m. Closed Session and 1:00 p.m. Regular Meeting on April 11, 2017, in the Santa Clara Valley Water District Headquarters Building Boardroom, 5700 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, California.

Michele L. King, CMC  
Clerk/Board of Directors

Approved:

Date:

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