



**District Attendees**

Randy Marx	Board President
Michael McRae	Board Vice President
Misha Sarkovich	Board Member
Chris Petersen	Board Member
Shawn Huckaby	Operations Manager
Chi Ha-Ly	Finance Manager
Paul Siebensohn	Technical Services Manager
Rebecca Simon	Human Resource Administrator

**Other Attendees**

Tony Barella	SJWD Director of Operations
Ted Costa	SJWD Board Member
George Babcock	Visitor
Jerry Haleva	Visitor
Sharon Haleva	Visitor
Vernon Brown	Visitor
Mary Klaas Schultz	Visitor
Sebastian Salazar	Visitor

**Absent**

Tom R. Gray	General Manager
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**AGENDA ITEMS**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

- Board President Marx called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Visitor Jerry Haleva presented a written and verbal statement to the Board regarding a billing discrepancy on his water account. He appealed to the Board to direct staff to remove any billing in arrears and late fees for erroneously unbilled usage.
- The Board directed staff to place this item on the agenda for the next board meeting.
- SJWD Director of Operations Barela provided an update on the Hinkle Reservoir

Project. He requested FOWD's operational team share the running schedule of the wells.

- The Board was in support of this request as FOWD has a routine well schedule that can be shared. Technical Services Manager Siebensohn has been appointed the contact to provide this information.
- A visitor commented there is pavement in the middle of her street, between Hill Street and Valley Street, that requires attention.
- Operations Manager Huckaby stated that FOWD staff will check the area to remedy the concern.
- Vice President McRae requested that staff provide an update/resolution at the next board meeting.

### **III. OPEN PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED WATER RATES**

#### **1. Staff presentation on proposed water rates**

- Operations Manager Huckaby provided an overview of the proposed water rates, explained the implementation process and shared FOWD's history of rate increases.

### **IV. PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON PROPOSED WATER RATES**

#### **1. Board discussion on public input received on proposed water rates**

- The public understood the need for rate increases but categorized the proposed rates as aggressive. The public recommended that FOWD spread out the rates over a period of time greater than the three years proposed.

#### **2. Board discussion on proposed water rates**

- The Board addressed questions regarding the process and strategy behind the proposed rate increases. FOWD currently has the lowest water rates in the region and will continue to maintain the lowest rates in 2025. The Board discussed the infrastructure improvement and water supply reliability needs.
- Visitor Babcock commented he has been a regular attendee for about seven years and has observed how FOWD saved money whenever possible. He noted that the rate increase is equivalent to about \$5 per month.

### **V. CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED WATER RATES**

- Board President Marx closed the public discussion at 7:44 p.m.

**VI. BOARD DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON FOWD RESOLUTION NO. 22-02: “A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING 2023, 2024 & 2025 WATER RATES”**

- Finance Manager Ha-Ly amended the number of written protests received from eight to twelve to include the protest letters received at the Public Hearing.

Director Sarkovich moved to adopt the amended Resolution No. 22-02.

Vice President McRae seconded the motion.

Motion carried with the following votes: Marx – aye, McRae – aye, Sarkovich – aye and Petersen – aye.

**VII. CONSENT CALENDAR**

The following consent calendar items were considered and acted upon as follows:

1. Approval of Minutes
  - a. Regular Board Meeting of October 17, 2022
2. Accept and File Treasurer’s Report for the month of October 2022
3. Accept and File Investment Reports for the months of September and October 2022
4. Accept and File Financial Expense Report for the month of October 2022
5. Approval of Warrants
6. Approval of Cal-Card Statements for the month of October 2022
7. Approval of Board Expense Report for the month of October 2022

Director Sarkovich moved to approve the consent calendar as presented.

Vice President McRae seconded the motion.

Motion carried with the following votes: Marx – aye, McRae – aye, Sarkovich – aye and Petersen – aye.

**VIII. PRESENTATION & CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Letter dated November 1, 2022, from the Department of Water Resources related to Urban Water Management Plan
2. Letter dated November 1, 2022 from SJWD related to Groundwater Banking/Conjunctive Use Projects
  - Board President Marx and Director Petersen will coordinate a meeting with SJWD to discuss potential partnership.
  - Director Sarkovich stated it’s time to have a written agreement between FOWD and SJWD.

**IX. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS: OLD BUSINESS**

1. None.

**X. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS: NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Update and discussion on FOWD Water Supply for the month of October 2022**

- Technical Services Manager Siebensohn provided a summary of the water supply report.
- Director Petersen suggested that staff add a groundwater level chart to the Water Supply Report.

**2. Discussion and possible action on additional funding for 2022 expenses**

- Finance Manager Ha-Ly recommended that the Board authorize General Manager Gray to transfer \$23,500 from reserves fund to cover the following expenses: water supply – energy costs, cooperative transmission pipeline O & M, auto and general liability insurance, consumable and maintenance supplies, and safety equipment.

Director Sarkovich moved to approve the proposed transfer to cover for additional funding.

Vice President McRae seconded the motion.

Motion carried with the following votes: Marx – aye, McRae – aye, Sarkovich – aye and Petersen – aye.

**XI. UPCOMING EVENTS**

1. November 29 to December 2, 2022 – ACWA 2022 Fall Conference
  - Information Only.
2. December 13, 2022 – SJWD Finance Meeting at SJWD
  - Information Only.
3. December 14, 2022 – SJWD Board Meeting at SJWD
  - Information Only.

**XII. REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

**1. Sacramento Groundwater Authority (SGA)**

- No report.

**2. Regional Water Authority (RWA)**

- No report.

**3. Sacramento Water Forum**

- No report.

**4. Other**

- None.

### **XIII. DIRECTORS' REPORTS & COMMENTS**

- 1. Budget Committee – (Sarkovich)**
  - None.
- 2. Technical Advisory Committee – (Marx, McRae)**
  - None.
- 3. Capital Improvement Committee – (Sarkovich)**
  - None.
- 4. Personnel Committee – (McRae, Petersen)**
  - None.
- 5. Public Relations Committee – (McRae)**
  - None.
- 6. Wholesale Water Agreement Ad–Hoc Committee – (McRae, Petersen)**
  - None.
- 7. Carmichael Water District Ad–Hoc Committee – (Marx, McRae)**
  - None.

### **XIV. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

- 1. Maintenance Work Report**
  - Report provided, no discussion.
- 2. Capital Projects Status Reports**
  - Report provided. Director Petersen noted there are projects on the report with a low completion percentage. Given that it's close to the end of the year, he suggested getting more resources to assist staff with the projects.
- 3. Authorizations of Additional Funding**
  - Report provided, no discussion.
- 4. Water Transfer Status Report**
  - None.
- 5. Claims Against District**
  - Report provided, no discussion.
- 6. Employee Update**
  - Human Resource Administrator Simon provided an update and overview.
- 7. Water Issues – Update on Regional Involvement**
  - None.

**8. Other**

- None.

**XV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Visitor Babcock provided positive feedback regarding today’s presentation on proposed water rates. He also suggested that FOWD discard any retroactive fees on Mr. & Mrs. Haleva’s account.
- Operations Manager Huckaby thanked the Board for answering and addressing public questions in an efficient manner. He felt their answers made a difference in the public’s opinion and the FOWD overview.

**XVI. ADJOURNMENT**

- With no further business to come before the Board, Board President Marx adjourned the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

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The Board approved the preceding minutes on December 19, 2022

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Tom R. Gray  
General Manager/Board Secretary

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Date